

2,200 quarantined over mumps outbreak at immigration centers

people exposed to the mumps virus in at least two immigration detention facilities have been guarantined, authorities said Tuesday.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say the 25-day quarantine began March 7 at facilities in Pine Prairie, Louisiana, and Aurora, Colorado.

long-held concerns over access to medical care at immigration facilities, especially at a time when more immigrants who are crossing the border are being held and for longer periods of time. There are nearly 47,000 immigrants currently detained around the country, according to an ICE spokesman.

ICE says 236 detainees have

PHOENIX (AP) — Over 2,200 had confirmed or probable cases of mumps in 51 facilities in the past year. There were no reported cases between 2016 and 2018 at any ICE facilities.

Mumps is extremely rare, infections and have dropped by 99 percent since vaccinations began in the late 1960s. It can spread quickly through coughing, sneezing or even The outbreak has renewed talking, and symptoms include swollen glands, fever, headache, muscle aches and pain while chewing or swallowing.

> Laura Lunn, managing attorney for the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network's detention program, said her organization has about a dozen clients who are guarantined in Aurora. Lunn said the facility has made her clients



In this April 15, 2017, file photo, vehicles are parked outside the entrance to the GEO Group's immigrant detention facility in Aurora, Colo.

available for meetings as ty of her staff, and is looking long as they wear a mask, but that she's concerned about the health and safe-

at alternate ways to meet with them. None of her clients actually

have mumps and all are Mexican or Central American men.

Continued on Page 3

Associated Press





As New York probes business deals, Trump cries 'HARASSERS'

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - New York's attorney general has opened a civil investigation into President Donald Trump's business dealings, acting after his former personal lawyer and fixer told Congress that he exaggerated his wealth to obtain loans. Trump tweeted an apparent response Tuesday night, decrying his home state and its governor as "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSERS." Attorney General Letitia James issued subpoenas



In this Jan. 6, 2019 file photo, Attorney General of New York, Letitia James, smiles during an inauguration ceremony in New York.



Monday to Deutsche Bank and Investors Bank seeking records related to four Trump real estate projects and his failed 2014 bid to buy the NFL's Buffalo Bills, according to a person familiar with the inquiry.

The person wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The New York Times first reported the subpoenas.

Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, told Congress in late February that Trump exaggerated his wealth on financial statements provided to Deutsche Bank when he was trying to obtain financing to buy the Bills.

Cohen told a House committee it was common for Trump to overstate his wealth when dealing with the news media or banks and for him to understate it when it came time to pay his taxes.

"New York State and its Rep. Maxine Waters, a Governor, Andrew Cuomo, Democrat and head are now proud members of of the House Financial

Associated Press

the group of PRESIDENTIAL HARASSERS," Trump tweeted . "No wonder people are fleeing the State in record numbers. The Witch Hunt continues!" Cuomo's office didn't immediately respond.

Deutsche Bank said in a statement that it remains "committed to cooperating authorized with investigations." Messages left with New Jersey-based Investors Bank and the Trump Organization were not immediately returned. The subpoenas issued by the attorney general seek loan applications, as well as mortgages, credit lines and other documents related to the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., buildings in Chicago and New York and a golf course in the Miami area.

Several Congressional committees have also requested documents from Deutsche Bank. California Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat and head of the House Financial Services Committee, said last week that the bank is cooperating.

Deutsche Bank has been one of the few major banks willing to regularly lend to Trump, whose past financial troubles scared off large New York banks. Trump's company borrowed billions of dollars from the German bank over the years.

In May, five Democratic members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan asking the bank to turn in any records relating to Trump's accounts and any ties to Russia. The bank refused, saying it had to respect legal requirements to keep client data private.

James, a Democrat newly elected to office, pledged to look into Trump's business practices, saying after her victory last November that she'd be "shining a bright light into every dark corner of his real estate dealings and every dealing."

Trump has complained that James is waging a politically motivated vendetta against him. Her office is also overseeing a lawsuit against a Trump charitable foundation. James' predecessors sued Trump over the operations of Trump University, his real estate school.

Previously, a different New York state agency, which regulates insurance companies, launched an inquiry into Cohen's allegations that Trump also misled insurance companies about his financial worth.



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"The most profound restriction is people are not being taken for immigration court. They aren't able to move forward with their cases and it's prolonging their detention," Lunn said. Immigrant advocates have long said that medical care at immigration detention facilities is subpar, and they've filed several lawsuits after deaths or injuries in detention.

Elizabeth Jordan of the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center said screenings at immigration detention centers are inadequate. She said she doesn't have any current clients who are quarantined in Aurora, but regularly interviews detainees there and has had clients there in the past.

"Neglect, I think, is not really strong enough to describe what's happening in there," Jordan said. For example, there's only one physician on staff, Jordan said.

ICE spokeswoman Alethea Smock said there are 271 detainees quarantined in four pods in the Aurora facility. Over 1,200 detainees are currently housed there. ICE officials said its quick reaction has led to a very low transmission rate and that it's monitoring detainees and employees for signs of illness at the facility, which has seen a spike in the number of detainees who came through the southern border. They say they have taken a number of measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, such as initial medical screening and a full medical check-up within 14 days.



This April 15, 2017, file photo, shows the entrance to the GEO Group's immigrant detention facility in Aurora, Colo.

Associated Press

Jordan said it's difficult for immigrants who are quarantined to access their attorneys. She had clients who were quarantined at a facility in California last year after a chicken pox outbreak that she couldn't reach to relay important information about their cases.

Jordan said the Aurora location has a phone system attorneys can use to reach detainees.

In Pine Prairie, about 65 miles (104 kilometers) north-

west of Lafayette, about 300 detainees are quarantined, spokesman Bryan D. Cox said. Cox said those who are in what the agency calls a medical cohort still have access to outdoor

recreation and dining, it's just that they have to stick with the people they're quarantined with. Detainees also have access to attorneys and are offered a mask. Cox said 18 people have had mumps at the Pine Prairie facility. They come from eight different countries and were arrested between June of last year and January 2019.





Push for broader LGBT rights slowed by lack of GOP support

By DAVID CRARY **AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The LGBT rights movement's top legislative priority, a comprehensive nondiscrimination bill, will be introduced in Congress on Wednesday, but the excitement will be tempered by political reality: The bill could well be doomed, at least for this year, by lack of Republican support.

That dynamic mirrors the situation nationwide. Twenty mostly Democratic-run states already have comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people, comparable to what the Equality Act would mandate nationally. The protections extend to employment, housing, public accommodations



In this Wednesday, July 26, 2017 file photo, people with the Human Rights Campaign hold up "equality flags" during an event organized by Rep. Joe Kennedy, D-Mass., in support of transgender members of the military on Capitol Hill in Washington, after President Donald Trump said he wants transgender people barred from serving in the U.S. military.

Associated Press

and public services. The other 30 states where Republicans hold full or partial power — have

balked at taking that step, illustrating that LGBT rights is as polarized along partisan lines as abortion, climate

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ton issues.

The result is a patchwork map in the U.S., with a majority of states making it legal for an LGBT person to be fired, evicted or barred from public facilities because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"No one's civil rights should be dependent on what ZIP code they live in," said JoDee Winterhoff of the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT rights group. Opponents of nondiscrimination bills, meanwhile, say that such measures can infringe on religious and other beliefs.

"The Equality Act would undermine the freedom to think and act according to our beliefs," said Emilie Kao of the conservative Heritage Foundation. Citing recent cases in the news, she said faith-based adoption agencies should be not be required to serve same-sex couples, and entrepreneurs such as bakers and florists should be not be required to provide their services for same-sex weddings.

The Equality Act was first introduced three years ago; it would add gender identity and sexual orientation to existing federal nondiscrimination laws covering such realms as employment, housing, education, and public spaces and services. The new version specifies that the act would cover retail stores, emergency shelters, banks, transportation, pharmacies and legal services.

near-unanimous cratic backing and seems certain to pass the House, but as of Tuesday afternoon only one Republican, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, had announced plans to be a co-sponsor. In the GOP-controlled Sen-

change and other hot but- ate, the bill's chances appear slim.

> "The path forward may require another election," said James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT & amp; HIV Project.

Esseks is hopeful that federal courts may broaden some protections for LGBT people, notably with regard to workplace discrimination. But he says the Equality Act eventually will be needed to "fill all the gaps" and provide comprehensive protections in conservative states that are unlikely to enact LGBT rights bills on their own.

This year, LGBT nondiscrimination bills have been filed in more than dozen state legislatures where the GOP either is in full control or, in the case of Virginia, controls one chamber. Two such bills passed Virginia's Democratic-controlled Senate, but GOP leaders in the House of Delegates refused to consider them. None of the bills in other states appear headed for passage.

Some examples:

- In West Virginia, the state Senate's GOP leadership let an LGBT nondiscrimination bill die without a hearing, despite a plea from 12 mayors to consider it.

- In North Dakota, a measure that would prohibit housing or workforce discrimination based on sexual orientation was defeated in the House by a 70-22 vote.

- In Arkansas, the state In Congress, the bill has Supreme Court refused to Demo- let the city of Fayetteville enforce a local ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The court cited a state law aimed at preventing local protections for LGBT people.



New York, feds join to get 100K rape kits tested around US

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Languishing evidence in over 100,000 sexual assault cases around the country has been sent for DNA testing with money from a New York prosecutor and federal authorities, spurring over 1,000 arrests and hundreds of convictions in three years, officials say.

It's estimated that another 155,000 or more sex assault evidence kits still await testing, and thousands of results have yet to be linked to suspects. Many who have been identified can't be prosecuted because of legal time limits and other factors.

Still, the effort is a start at correcting "an absolute travesty of justice," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said Tuesday while releasing results of his \$38 million investment in testing — all outside his own turf.

"That backlog not only undermined justice and the perception, and reality, of equality — it also made every woman and every American less safe," he said.

Law enforcement and lawmakers have faced growing calls in recent years to eliminate what's known as the rape kit backlog swabs and samples collected in sex assault cases but never tested for DNA. Victims' advocates see the untested kits as signs that sexual assaults weren't taken seriously enough.

Vance, who took office after New York City cleared its own testing backlog, and the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance have worked in tandem since 2015 to help other places tackle theirs.

The two agencies have paid to send years-old kits to labs from dozens of states and communities, ranging from Flint, Michigan, to Mobile, Alabama, to Las Vegas.

One of those kits sat untested for 15 years in Tracy Rios' case, though she'd given police the name of the then-friend she accused of luring her into a vacant apartment and sexually assaulting her in 2002 in Tempe, Arizona. Police said they couldn't charge him based on her word, and then she underwent a rape kit exam, but the investigation soon stalled, she said.

"I lost faith in the system. I thought they didn't care," she said Tuesday. A message was left for Tempe police about the case.

Two years ago, she was told her rape kit had finally been tested, with money from the Manhattan DA's office, and police were pursuing her case anew.

"It was amazing to know I was going to get justice," said Rios, whose attacker is now serving a seven-year sentence for sexual assault. The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they agree to be identified, as Rios did.



In this Sept. 12, 2018 file photo, Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus Vance, Jr., speaks to reporters after a hearing in Manhattan criminal court in New York.

Some cities have mobilized on their own to test yearsold rape kits.

But the big grants from Manhattan and Washington "infused this movement with resources," says llse Knecht of the Joyful Heart Foundation, a sexual assault victims' advocacy aroup.

The backlog built up over decades, partly due to the cost of tests that can run \$1,000 or more.

But victims' advocates also say many sex assault cases simply got sidelined over the years by police and prosecutors who unduly disbelieved or downplayed victims' allegations.

New York City worked through a 17,000-case

backlog between 2000 and 2003. Vance, a Democrat elected in 2009, offered other places money to attack their own backlogs and negotiated discount rates with labs.

His program — financed with \$38 million from settlements in banking-related cases — dispatched more than 55,000 rape kits to testing labs. The results have yielded 186 arrests and 64 convictions to date, with more investigations and prosecutions still underway, according to Vance's report

In Battle Creek, Michigan, arrests included a suspect in the 2013 sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl.

Authorities had his name

from the start - he was a family friend - but her rape kit wasn't tested until Vance's grant program helped Michigan wipe out a 3,400-kit backlog.

Associated Press

The woman, now 19, says she was initially angry when authorities told her they were ready to prosecute three years after the assault. She'd gotten on with her life, helped by counseling. But she ultimately agreed to testify, and her attacker pleaded guilty and was sentenced to up to 30 years in prison.

"I feel proud of myself" for going forward with the case, the woman said Tuesday. And she doesn't feel scared to walk around town anymore.

Feds charge Georgia woman with supporting cyber caliphate

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal She agreed to be transprosecutors in New York announced charges Tuesday ther proceedings. against a woman accused Her defense attorney, Ken way, to assist in hacking of recruiting cyber support- Crowder, declined to com- efforts, and also did editers to an online group that ment on the charges. published "kill lists" on behalf of the Islamic State.

Kim Anh Vo, 20, was arrested in Georgia and appeared in federal court in Augusta on charges of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization.

ferred to Manhattan for fur-

The FBI said in court filings that Vo joined an online group called the United Cyber Caliphate that spread propaganda on behalf of the Islamic State group and called on supporters to kill thousands of Americans in She was then interviewed so-called lone wolf attacks. by FBI agents.

Prosecutors said Vo recruited members to the group, including a minor from Noring and translating for the group.

She contacted the FBI on at least three occasions beginning in July 2017 saying she wished to speak to law enforcement, according to federal court filings.





New Mexico bill would create first state-run pot shops in U.S.

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico would become the first U.S. state to set up its own government-operated marijuana stores and subsidize medical cannabis for the poor under a bill brokered between Republicans and Democrats, as a new wave of states weighs legislation that would legalize recreational sales and consumption.

The idea for state-run pot shops comes from a trio of GOP state senators who broke with local Republican Party orthodoxy to embrace legal marijuana with a decidedly big-government approach that would have the state directly oversee most sales and require that marijuana consumers carry receipts of purchase or confront penalties.

Those provisions were sown into Democrat-sponsored legislation that contains currents of social justice, including a provision to subsidize medical cannabis for poor people with "debilitating medical conditions" who might not otherwise be able to afford treatment. Tax dollars from recreational marijuana sales would fund employment and counseling programs in communities "disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies," including training to enter the marijuana sector. Carly Wolf, state policies coordinator at the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, says the provisions for state-run stores and medical cannabis subsidization both would be new to the United States, as New Mexico seeks to become the first state to set up a complete regulatory framework through legislation.

Ten states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana — all by ballot initiative except Vermont, which allowed for personal use and growing but is still debating whether to authorize commercial production and sales.

Other legislative efforts to legalize recreational mari-



In this Wednesday, March 6, 2019 photo, Korbin Osborn, left, works as a cannabis adviser at a medical marijuana dispensary in Santa Fe, N.M.

juana are underway in New York and New Jersey, while a bill to legalize recreational cannabis in Democratdominated Hawaii fizzled last week.

In New Mexico, a coterie of powerful conservative Democrats still stands in the way of a Senate floor vote on legalization.

"It's not a priority," said Democratic Sen. John Arthur Smith of Deming, who will decide whether the marijuana bill is heard by the Senate Finance Committee, a final hurdle before a Senate vote. Smith does not favor legalization and worries about harmful effects of marijuana on the brain.

Sen. Peter Wirth, the chamber's Democratic majority leader, believes legalization would prevail in a floor vote. He said support from a contingent of Senate Republicans has redrawn the political battle on marijuana along generational lines rather than partisan affiliation.

Wirth also called the concept of state-run pot shops — that would sell marijuana on consignment without owning or producing it a political game changer that allays anxiety about welcoming the nation's rollicking, multibillion-dollar marijuana industry. In addition, marijuana production licenses would come with an in-state residency requirement of two years.

"It puts some parameters around it," Wirth said. "The state can monitor what it looks like and how it expands."

Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has expressed guarded support for recreational marijuana — provided the legislation addresses concerns about child access, impaired driving, workplace safety and safeguarding the state's existing marijuana market for medical patients.

"If the Legislature can check those boxes, bring it on," Nora Sackett, a spokeswoman for Lujan Grisham, said in an email.

New Mexico has watched neighboring Colorado's pioneering decision to legalize and tax marijuana with a mixture of apprehension and envy, as lawmakers in Santa Fe struggle to find stable sources of tax revenue to improve public education and raise teacher salaries. The judiciary is threatening to intervene in school funding decisions, citing inadequate educational opportunities for chilAssociated Press

dren from poor and minority families.

New Mexico would levy a 17 percent tax on recreational marijuana sales and allow possession of up to 1 ounce (28 grams). Local governments can opt out, forgoing tax proceeds in the process. State tax proceeds would fund detection technologies and training for police to identify impaired drivers. Businesses could maintain "zero-tolerance" policies for drug testing as a condition of employment.

Sponsors say the bill would safeguard New Mexico's medical marijuana program by removing taxes on medical pot to keep down prices and ensure its 70,000 participants don't flock to the recreational market. At least four other states forgo taxes on medical marijuana.

New Mexico also would authorize marijuana consumption "lounges" for smoking and vaping — or eating any number of marijuana-infused confections and foods — though the bill offers few details on regulatory oversight.

Republican Sen. Cliff Pirtle, a dairy farmer from Roswell, in a conservative political stronghold of the state, said state-run stores can prevent the proliferation of pot shops that some other states have witnessed, and provide retail shelf space at a low cost to fledgling marijuana producers.

"You drive through Anonito and you used to not even have a gas station, and now it has four marijuana shops," said Pirtle, describing a Colorado town of 750 residents near the New Mexico state line. "I know in my district that's not what they want downtown to look like, so this would help." A number of U.S. states retain a monopoly on liquor sales through state-operated stores — a regulatory option that dates back to prohibition. Several provinces in Canada, which legalized marijuana last year, sell cannabis exclusively through government-run retail and online stores.

In New Mexico, some private dispensaries would be allowed in remote areas at least 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the nearest staterun pot shop.

State-run stores are among a host of provisions that respond to experiences in states with voter-approved legalization, where regulations were sometimes forged by lawmakers after the fact, whether they sought legalization or not. House Democrats in New Mexico, where ballot initia-

tives aren't available, say they spent years exploring policies and tax provisions for a bill that now includes funding for research on the health effect of legalization.

"One of the benefits of doing it through the legislative process is you just jump into the nuanced details," said Emily Kaltenbach, state director of the nonpartisan Drug Policy Alliance that favors decriminalization. "You iron those out."

In negotiations over a final bill, local governments gained a greater share of tax proceeds to spend on anything from roads to counseling for drug addiction, and Republicans held on to prohibitions on homegrown recreational marijuana.



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Former East Pittsburgh police officer Michael Rosfeld, charged with homicide in the shooting death of Antwon Rose II, arrives at the Dauphin County Courthouse in Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Associated Press

Black woman added to jury over protests by officer's lawyer

By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) -A judge in the case of a white western Pennsylvania police officer accused of shooting to death a black teenager last year put a black woman on the jury Tuesday over the defense's objections but said he will reconsider the decision. Allegheny County Judge Alexander Bicket agreed that lawyers for former East Pittsburgh Police Officer Michael Rosfeld had improperly ruled out the woman based on race, but later said he would "revisit" the topic.

Rosfeld, 30, of Verona, is charged with criminal homicide for the June shooting death of Antwon Rose II. Rose, 17, was shot three times, including in the back, as he ran from a vehicle that Rosfeld had stopped.

The shooting prompted a

series of protests, including a late night march down a major highway.

The first day of jury selection produced six women and three men for the panel, including two black women and one black man. Jurors are being chosen in Harrisburg because of widespread publicity about the case in the Pittsburgh area. The trial will begin next week in Pittsburgh and is expected to last more than a week.

Prosecutors and the defense both have challenges they may use to eliminate potential jurors, but those challenges cannot be based on a potential juror's race, gender or ethnicity. A 55-year-old black woman from Harrisburg was ruled out by Rosfeld defense attorney Patrick Thomassey, prompting a so-called "Batson challenge" from the Allegheny County prosecutors. 🔲

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A second white Detroit police officer has been fired for misconduct after his partner posted a racist video online, and an internal audit found that racial insensitivity is a "dirty little secret" in the west side police precinct where both worked, the city's police chief said Tuesday.

The investigation into the 6th Precinct was launched this year after Gary Steele, then a police officer, posted a video on Snapchat of a black driver whom he had pulled over for having expired plates. He can be heard saying "priceless" and "bye Felicia" as the 23-year-old woman walks away. Video captions read What black girl magic looks like" and "celebrating Black History Month."

Steele was fired two weeks ago. Chief James Craig announced Tuesday that Steele's partner, Michael Garrison, has also been fired for conduct unbe-

coming an officer, not reporting misconduct, neglect of duty, and being untruthful to investigators. "While investigating former officer Steele, investigators determined that officer Garrison also repeatedly demonstrated disturbing actions while on the job," said Craig, adding that the incidents were not isolated to the day the video was recorded.

Associated Press

Craig said about a dozen allegations were leveled against Garrison, including that he used names for African- and Arab-Americans that were "certainly racially insensitive, particularly when they're focused on one or two demographics." Garrison also failed to report the Snapchat video to supervisors and was not truthful when making statements to investigators, Craig said.

Attorneys for the police union haven't replied to a phone message seeking comment.

Police departments across the country are being scru-

tinized and criticized for their treatment of African-Americans and other people of color. Protests over the shootings of black men by white officers have upturned dozens of cities in recent years.

The audit "should be used as a template to address racism precinct by precinct and in special policing units," said Kenneth Reed, spokesman for the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality.

"The coalition challenges Chief Craig to continue audits for each precinct," Reed said.

The misconduct investigations into Garrison and Steele ran parallel to the probe that revealed the 6th Precinct was "racially divided," Craig said.

"During this audit, some referred to the racial insensitivities that was demonstrated by some that this was the 6th Precinct's dirty little secret. When comments were made, supervisors were pretty much non-responsive. Some of the comments were made around the station, some in the field," he said. One officer told investigators that in January 2015, Garrison saw a white man walking in the cold, called him a "taxpaying citizen" and gave the man a ride to his destination. Later in the shift, the officers saw a black man carrying what appeared to be bags of groceries. The other officer asked if they were going to give the black man a ride. Garrison replied "no, we're not" and kept driving, Craig said.



In this Monday July 11, 2016 file image from video, Detroit Po-

lice Chief James Craig speaks to reporters during a news con-

ference held at his department's headquarters in Detroit.

Chief: Probe finds racially

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 WORLD NEWS



May Day: UK Parliament rejects prime minister's Brexit deal

By JILL LAWLESS RAF CASERT

LONDON (AP) — With just 17 days to go, Britain's departure from the European Union was thrown into chaos and doubt Tuesday as Parliament delivered a crushing double blow to Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit divorce deal and to her authority as leader.

Lawmakers rejected the deal 391-242, ignoring May's entreaties to back the agreement and end the political chaos and economic uncertainty that Brexit has unleashed. It was a narrower outcome than the historic 230-vote margin of defeat for the agreement in January, before May secured changes from the bloc — but not by much.

Top EU officials warned that the defeat had increased the chances of a chaotic "no-deal" British exit, which could mean major disruption for businesses and people in the U.K. and many of the 27 remaining EU countries.

The stinging 149-vote defeat stripped away May's



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves from Downing Street in London, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

control over the course of Brexit and handed it to Parliament, which is divided outcome - lawmakers will about what to do next.

A drawn and hoarse May admitted defeat — again - and confirmed that Parliament will vote Wednesday on whether to leave the EU on March 29 with-

out an agreement. If that is defeated — the likely vote Thursday on whether to delay Brexit, something that needs to be approved by the EU nations too.

May warned lawmakers that "voting against leaving without a deal and for



Associated Press

an extension does not solve the problems we face."

"The EU will want to know what use we mean to make of such an extension. This House will have to answer that question. Does it wish to revoke (Brexit-triggering) Article 50? Does it want to hold a second referendum? Or does it want to leave with a deal but not this deal?

"These are unenviable choices," she said.

The EU, which had warned there would be no more changes or negotiations if Parliament threw out the deal, expressed exasperation at yet another Brexit crisis.

In a statement, the European Commission said the member states "have done all that is possible to reach an agreement."

"If there is a solution to the current impasse, it can only be found in London," it said, adding that "today's vote has significantly increased the likelihood of a 'no-deal' Brexit."

European Parliament Brexit coordinator Guy Verhofstadt tweeted: "Brexit was about taking back control. Instead the UK spiralled out of control." The defeat came after May and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced changes Monday designed to overcome lawmakers' concerns about provisions designed to ensure the border between EU member Ireland and Britain's Northern Ireland remains open after Brexit.

The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU until a permanent new trading relationship is in place. Brexit supporters in Britain fear the backstop could be used to bind the country to EU regulations indefinitely.

May said documents to be added to the deal provided "legally binding" assurances that the backstop would be temporary and that Britain would have a way to get out of it if the EU failed to negotiate in good faith. However, the text of the 585-page withdrawal agreement remained unchanged.

May's hopes the concessions would be decisive were dashed when Attorney General Geoffrey Cox said the changes "reduce the risk" Britain could be trapped inside EU regulations — but do not eliminate it.

In a written legal opinion, Cox said the U.K. could still not extract itself from the terms of the divorce deal unilaterally, a key demand of pro-Brexit British politicians. Afterward, hardcore Brexit supporters in May's Conservative Party and the prime minister's allies in Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party both said they could not support the deal.

The DUP, which props up May's minority government, said "sufficient progress has not been achieved" on the key issue of the Irish border. The European Research Group of pro-Brexit Conservatives, which has dozens of lawmakers as members, said the amendments "do not deliver 'legally binding changes'" to the withdrawal agreement, as the government promised.

Other EU nations had urged British politicians to seize the chance to back the deal and ensure an orderly departure.



Aid groups appeal for Syria funds as donors head to Brussels

By LORNE COOK

BRUSSELS (AP) - Aid organizations appealed Tuesday for funds to help Syria recover from an eight-year war that has driven almost 6 million people out of the country, as donors from nearly 85 countries readied for a pledging conference in Brussels.

Agencies, non-governmental organizations, and think tanks say the conflict, which has killed more than 400,000 people and sparked a refugee exodus that destabilized Syria's neighbors and hit Europe, is far from over. Around 80 percent of people inside the country live in extreme poverty and refugees are reluctant to return, fearing violence, conscription or prison.

"Syrian refugees need trust that their return will be safe, secure and dignified," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said during a weekend visit to Lebanon, which is struggling to cope with arrivals from over the border.

According to the Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, some



People take photographs of an installation featuring a drawing by a Syrian girl placed by "Save the Children" NGO outside the European Commission and Council headquarters ahead of the Syria donors conference in Brussels, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

100,000 people have been air and ground in recent displaced since the last wave of violence began in mid-February, including tens of thousands from Khan Sheikhoun in northwest Syria, which has been repeatedly hit by government forces from the

weeks. It estimated that some 140 people, including 69 civilians, were killed over three weeks.

As the conflict enters its ninth year, about 11.7 million Syrians still depend on aid, more than 6 mil**Associated Press**

Oceania Rooftop Penthouse

lion have been displaced inside Syria and some 2 million children are out of school.

But donor fatigue is growing: Of around 3.5 billion euros (\$3.9 billion) pledged last year, only around two thirds were funded.

Beyond providing aid, the European Union - the world's biggest donor and host of Thursday's conference - refuses to help rebuild the country until a political settlement has been reached.

"It's a message of 'you broke it, you own it," said Jean-Christophe Belliard, deputy secretary general of the EU's External Action Service essentially the bloc's foreign office - in reference to Syrian President Bashar Assad and his backers.

The EU is hoping that the meeting can give impetus to stalled peace moves under U.N. auspices, on top of gathering humanitarian aid for Syria and for neighbors hosting refugees like Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. But some NGOs believe that its stance over rebuilding can be a serious obstacle to genuine aid efforts.

"All too often that reconstruction line is limiting what in every other aid context in the world is considered best practice in terms of how to provide humanitarian aid," said Matthew Hemsley, Oxfam's Syria policy and communications adviser.

Iraqi on trial in Germany over murder, rape of 14-year-old

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) - A rejected Iraqi asylum-seeker admitted killing a 14-year-old local girl as he went on trial in Germany Tuesday in a case that fueled tensions over migration. He denied raping her.

The 22-year-old Ali Bashar is accused of assaulting and murdering Susanna Feldman in the western city of Wiesbaden in May. Bashar and his family abruptly left a home for asylum appli-

cants in Germany after the months previously, that killing, and he was later extradited from Iraq.

The defendant admitted to the Wiesbaden state court as his trial opened that he killed the girl, news agency The trial is scheduled to last dpa reported.

"I don't know how this could happen," he said through an interpreter. He said that they had had consensual sex before the killing.

Bashar said he had met the girl through a mutual acquaintance about three

they had often spent time together and he hadn't

known how old she was. There are no formal pleas in the German legal system. at least until early May.

Bashar is believed to have arrived in Germany in October 2015, at the height of the migrant influx to the country, and was appealing the rejection of his asylum application at the time of the killing.



INFORMATION AND A TOUR: Call Bob @ 561-7685/527-8250 or email: robertjtorre@yahoo.com

Ocean Front

penthouse w/ roof top patio 2 bed/ 2 bath beautifully decorated condo Steps from Eagle beach w/ panoramic Ocean and island views

\$750,000.00



MEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 WORLD NEWS



Longest US-Taliban peace talks see 'progress' in Qatar

By FAY ABUELGASIM KATHY GANNON Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The longest peace talks between the U.S. and the Taliban to end America's 17-year war in Afghanistan concluded Tuesday night in Qatar, with both sides saying progress had been made.

The nearly two weeks of talks produced two draft agreements between the militants and the U.S. government on a "withdrawal timeline and effective counterterrorism measures," American envoy Zalmay Khalilzad wrote on Twitter.

The diplomat said he'd go to Washington and meet with other concerned parties, likely including the Afghan government, which did not take part in the 13 days of face-to-face talks in Doha, the Qatari capital. "The conditions for #peace have improved," Khalilzad wrote. "It's clear all sides want to end the war. Despite ups and downs, we kept things on track and made real strides."

The Taliban issued their own statement, similarly saying "progress was achieved"



In this photo released by the Pakistan Foreign Office, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, left, meets with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

on both of those issues. It stressed no cease-fire deal had been reached, nor any agreement for it to speak to the Afghan government. "For now, both sides will de-

For now, both sides will deliberate over the achieved progress, share it with their respective leaderships and prepare for the upcoming meeting, the date of which shall be set by both nego-

tiation teams," the statement read. It wasn't immediately clear

when the next round of talks would begin. A Taliban official at the talks, who earlier spoke to The Associated Press on

condition of anonymity as he was unauthorized to reveal details of the negotiations publicly, said the main sticking point remained when U.S. forces would withdraw. The Taliban want a withdrawal within three to five months, while the U.S. is saying it will take 18 months to two years, he said.

Associated Press

Another sticking point would be a demand from America that the Taliban guarantee Afghanistan would never again host militants that would launch an attack against it. The Taliban have said it can agree to a general promise, but remains unwilling to identify specific groups in its pledge.

Osama bin Laden's successor in al-Qaida, Ayman al Zawahri, is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. Scores of other militants from Arab countries, including Yemen and Saudi Arabia, are also believed to be living in Afghanistan. The Taliban, who refuse to talk with the government in Kabul and describe it as a U.S. puppet, have long demanded direct talks with the U.S. but until Khalilzad's appointment last September, Washington had shied away from opening faceto-face negotiations. The Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida and its leader, bin Laden, ruled Afghanistan before U.S. forces invaded in October 2001, following the 9/11 attacks. The Taliban have made a major comeback in recent years, and today carry out neardaily attacks on Afghan security forces. That has made a peace process even more pressing and President Donald Trump has expressed frustration at the protracted conflict.

UN warns thousands trapped in Yemen's northern flashpoint



In this Oct. 1, 2018 file photo, children sit in front of moldy bread in their shelter, in Aslam, Hajjah, Yemen.

Associated Press

By MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press CAIRO (AP) — A U.N. humanitarian agency warned on Tuesday that thousands of Yemeni civilians caught in fierce clashes between warring factions are trapped in an embattled northern district, an area that has become another flashpoint in the country's bitter civil war. The number of displaced

in the impoverished district of Hajjah has doubled over the past six months, with over 5,300 families fleeing from the district and its surrounding area in the past weeks, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA.

Hajjah's mountainous district of Kushar, only 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the border with Saudi Arabia has been hit particularly hard — roads and all communication lines are cut and "thousands of civilians are reportedly trapped between conflicting parties," the U.N. said.

Over the past days, airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition, which is fighting on behalf of Yemen's internationally recognized government, killed 22 people, including women and 14 children in the area.

"It is outrageous that inno-

cent civilians continue to die needlessly in a conflict that should, and can be solved," said Lise Grande, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Yemen.

Yemen's Houthi rebels imposed tight control over Kushar after powerful local tribesmen took up arms against them. The Houthis subsequently shelled the district — home to 100,000 people — and killed and wounded scores of civilians. Thousands were displaced. As the Houthi siege strangled the area, the Saudi-led coalition airdropped food and medicine to the tribes.

The district's tribes, in a 2012 deal with the Houthis, had remained neutral in Yemen's civil war, which erupted in 2014, and were in return left in peace on their lands. The area's Ha-

jour tribes also belong to the same Zaydi Shiite sect as the Houthis.

But after the Houthis tried to use the district to send weapons and reinforcements to other front-lines, where they have been fighting Saudi-backed forces, the deal collapsed.

The recent developments in Hajjah — where the total number of displaced due to the fighting numbers around 30,000 — underscore the fragmentation of the Houthis' support base in northern Yemen, where the rebels have mostly been in control since the start of the conflict.

Yemen's civil war has killed over 60,000 people — both civilians and combatants — and displaced 3 million, pushing the already impoverished nation to the brink of famine.



WORLD NEWS A11 WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019

	DAILY EARLY BIRD \$19 75	Appetizer Grouper 'Butterfly' / Mozzarella salad / Miso soup <i>Main course</i> Phad Thai / Green curry veggies / Chicken teriyaki / Grouper 'Dragonfly' / Mongolian beef	SEATING - FREE PARKING
DRAGONFLY	between 4PM - 7PM	Dessert Vanilla ice cream	OUTSIDE
SUSHI - ASIAN RESTAURANT - LOUNCE	Opening hours: daily 4PM - 1AM Opening hours kitchen: daily 4PM - 11PM - Live music: daily outside 7:30PM - 10:30PM J.E. Irausquin Blvd 370 (across from Barceló Resort) Arawak Garden, Palm Beach Tel: +297 280 0019 - E: dragonfly@arubawineanddine.com www.dragonflyaruba.com - www.facebook.com/dragonflyaruba		INSIDE & O

China says Muslim 'training' centers will slowly disappear

By YANAN WANG

BEIJING (AP) — Heavily guarded internment camps for Muslims which China calls vocational training centers will gradually disappear if there comes a time that "society does not need" them, regional authorities said Tuesday.

The camps in the far-west Xinjiang region have elicited an international outcry, with former inmates describing harsh conditions in which Muslim minorities are subject to political indoctrination and psychological torture. Human rights groups, researchers and the U.S. government estimate around 1 million people from the predominantly Muslim Uighur and Kazakh



Chen Quanguo, center, Communist Party secretary of China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, gestures while speaking during a group discussion meeting on the sidelines of China's National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Associated Press

ethnic groups are held in spread throughout the vast a network of compounds region.

At a news conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature, Xinjiang Gov. Shohrat Zakir declined to disclose the number of what he called "trainees." But he said the figure is "far less" than 1 million and described extensive reports on conditions in the camps as "pure fabrications."

While China initially denied the existence of the system of internment camps, in the face of growing global condemnation it now says it has established "vocational training centers" where people vulnerable to the lure of religious extremism are enrolled in free legal and language classes and can learn practical

work skills.

Zakir said the camps do not target any particular faith, though religious activities are banned in the camps. Ex-detainees say the overwhelming majority of those in the camps are Muslim.

"We fully ensure freedom of religion," including accommodating Muslim "trainees'" desire for halal food, Zakir said, adding that they can request time off and go home on weekends, "like many boarding schools."

Like his immediate predecessors as Xinjiang governor, Zakir is from the region's native Uighur ethnic group, providing a public face for the government and its claims that Xinjiang is an autonomous region. 🔲

Seoul: North Korea launch would be catastrophe for diplomacy

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea must not use a possible rocket launch as leverage in negotiations with the U.S, a South Korean presidential adviser said Tuesday, saying such a move could be "catastrophic" for global diplomacy on its nuclear program.

U.S.-based websites recently released satellite photographs indicating North Korea has restored structures at its long-range rocket launch facility that activities as leverage in neit dismantled last year at the start of diplomacy with the United States. Other satellite imageries show increased vehicle activities at a separate North Korean facility used to manufacture missiles, and rockets for

satellite launches.

Some experts say these suggest North Korea may be assembling a longrange rocket to carry out a banned satellite launch in the wake of last month's North Korea-U.S. summit in Hanoi that ended without talks. He said the Hanoi any agreement.

Moon Chung-in, a retired university professor who is now a special adviser to President Moon Jae-in, told a panel discussion that North Korea using a rocket launch or other nuclear gotiations would be a "bad move."

Moon Chung-in said such a North Korean move could eventually cause a "catastrophic" consequence or a "big disaster" in the U.S.-North Korea diplomacy.

"I wonder if North Korea should avoid" such an action, Moon said.

He said both North Korea and the U.S. must restrain themselves to keep diplomacy alive and start unofficial contacts to resume summit showed how "difficult" and "painful" it would be to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

The Hanoi summit fell apart due to disputes over how sanctions reliefs much North Korea could win in return for limited nuclear disarmament steps. Washington and Pyongyang accuse each other of causing the summit's breakdown, but both sides have avoided harsh criticism against each other and expressed



Moon Chung-in, a special adviser to South Korean President ivioon Jae-in, speaks during a forum nosted by the kwannun Club in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Associated Press

hopes for future negotiations. No official meeting between the countries has yet to be publicly scheduled.

The Feb. 27-28 summit was

the second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump since they met for the first time in Singapore last June.

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 WORLD NEWS



US pulling last diplomats from Venezuela amid power crisis

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ SCOTT SMITH

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - The U.S. said late Monday that it is pulling its last remaining diplomats from Venezuela, saying their continued presence at the country's embassy in Caracas had become a "constraint" on U.S. policy as the Trump administration aggressively looks to oust socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

The announcement came from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a tweet shortly before midnight comes as Venezuela struggles to restore electricity following four days of blackouts around the country.

The U.S. has led an international effort to replace Maduro with opposition leader Juan Guaido, who vows to hold a new presidential election. Guaido is backed by some 50 countries, while Maduro maintains support from countries such as China, Russia and Cuba.

Maduro ordered all U.S. diplomats to leave Venezuela in late January because of its support for Guaido, but he later retreated and allowed them to stay. The U.S. still withdrew the bulk of embassy personnel, leaving a skeletal staff led by career foreign service officer James Story.

Pompeo said the remaining diplomats would be out of Venezuela by the end of the week but gave no indication of future policy steps despite past warnings that "all options" — including the use of military force - are on the table for removing Maduro.

The move came after another day of chaos as power outages that began Thursday evening continued to cause problems for Venezuelans, leaving them with little power, water and communications.

People converged on a polluted river to fill water who were allegedly trybottles in Caracas, and ing to sabotage power fascattered protests erupted cilities were captured and ed about reports of looting in several cities

A 3-year-old girl with a brain tumor languished in a Caracas hospital, awaiting treatment after doctors



People collect water falling from a leaking pipeline along the banks of the Guaire River during rolling blackouts, which affects access to running water in people's homes, offices and stores, in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 11, 2019.

started surgery but then suspended the operation when nationwide power outages first hit on Thursday, said the girl's fearful mother, who only gave her first name, Yalimar.

"The doctors told me that there are no miracles," said Yalimar, who hopes her daughter can be transferred Tuesday to one of the few hospitals in Venezuela that would be able to finish the complex procedure.

The girl's story highlighted an unfolding horror in Venezuela, where years of hardship got abruptly worse after the power grid collapsed. On Monday, schools and businesses were closed, long lines of cars waited at the few gasoline stations with electricity and hospitals cared for many patients without power. Generators have alleviated conditions for some of the critically ill.

President Nicolas Maduro said on national television Monday night that progress had been made in restoring power in Venezuela. He also said two people to authorities, though he gave no details.

Guaido, who heads the of Maracaibo dispersed opposition-controlled "criminals" trying to take ad-

congress, and the United States say Maduro's claims that the U.S. sabotaged the power grid with a "cyberattack" are an attempt to divert attention from the government's own failings. There have been acts of kindness during Venezuela's crisis: People whose food would rot in refrigerators without power donated it to a restaurant, which cooked it for distribution to charities and hospitals.

The blackouts also have hit the oil industry. The country hasn't shipped \$358 million in oil since the power failures started, and "the whole system is grinding to a halt," said Russ Dallen, a Miami-based partner at the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets

Two large tankers are sitting empty at the Jose offshore oil-loading dock, and at least 19 other ships are waiting their turns there, Dallen said.

Engineers have restored power in some parts of Venezuela, but it often goes out again. There have been a few protests in Caracas and reports of similar anti-government anger the Baruta area of Caraelsewhere. Guaido tweetwere providing information in some cities, but details were difficult to confirm.

Security forces in the city

vantage of the power cuts, Mayor Willy Casanova told local media. However, numerous videos posted on social media that purported to be from Maracaibo showed crowds roaming the streets and people running from looted, damaged buildings with no police in sight.

Associated Press

In Caracas, some people reported more sightings of "colectivos," a term for armed groups allegedly operating on behalf of the state to intimidate opponents.

The mood in Caracas was desperate.

Marian Morales, a nurse working for a Catholic youth group, and several colleagues handed out diapers and food from a car parked near a hospital. Police and men in civilian clothing ordered them to leave, saying they didn't have permission.

Morales said the needy are cautious about approaching to collect the handouts because of the presence of security forces.

Early Monday, an explosion rocked a power station in cas. Residents gathered to look at the charred, smoldering equipment.

Guaido said three of four electricity transformers servicing the area were knocked out. He has

blamed the blackouts on government corruption and mismanagement.

Winston Cabas, the head of Venezuela's electrical engineers union, which opposes the government, disputed government allegations that the country's main hydroelectric dam was sabotaged last week. He blamed a lack of maintenance as well as the departure of skilled workers from the troubled country over the years.

"The system is vulnerable, fragile and unstable," he said.

Spain's airline pilots union asked for Spanish airline Air Europa to stop flying to Venezuela after one of its crews was attacked at gunpoint in Caracas. The Sepla union said two pilots and eight more crew members of a flight from Madrid were assaulted on Saturday while going from the airport to their hotel in the Venezuelan capital. None of the crew members was injured.

Air Europa responded by ordering the crews of flights to Venezuela to not spend the night in the country, according to the union.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on a Moscow-based bank jointly owned by Russian and Venezuelan state-owned companies, alleging it tried to circumvent U.S. sanctions on the South American country. The U.S. said it is targeting Evrofinance Mosnarbank for supporting Petroleos de Venezuela SA, the state oil company previously targeted by sanctions in January.

Evrofinance said it was carrving out its activities normally despite the announcement and pledged to "meet its obligations to the clients and partners in full."

The U.S. and the other governments that recognize Guaido as Venezuela's interim president say Maduro wasn't legitimately reelected last year because opposition candidates weren't permitted to run. Maduro says he is the target of a U.S. coup plot.



A13 EDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019





ORANJESTAD — As is customary, Aruba was present at the ITB Berlin Conference, the largest international conference in connection with travel tourism. For 2019, Aruba's booth reception, with the hashtag **#ONEHAPPYHOURCOCK-**TAIL, was an extra-special one.

It commemorated the fact that A.T.A. has been promoting Aruba in the European market for 35 years and that Mr. Ewald Biemans, founder of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, was an essential part of this trajectory with his presence at ITB for 39 years.

Aruba's commemoration of 35 years in the European market, with promotion and efforts through A.T.A., started at ITB last Wednesday. The A.T.A. will take the opportunity in 2019 to emphasize the importance of Europe for Aruba through this promotional campaign, where they will give attention to several pioneers and people who played a key role in promoting Aruba's tourism in Europe. Further-

Aruba Tourism Authority Recognizes Ewald Biemans for His Pioneering Efforts

more, the evolution and the promotion of Aruba's tourism product will be carried out through activations both between the partners in the market and among consumers.

 $\langle \mathcal{P} \rangle$

Importance of diversifying the Aruba market:

Mr. Biemans, who attended ITB for his 39th time, is undoubtedly a pioneer in opening Aruba to the European market. Mr. Biemans came to our island more than 50 years ago with a vision that has proven fruitful for our tourism sector. Aware that tourism was the largest economic pillar of Aruba and that Europe represented great opportunities for Aruba, Mr. Biemans recognized the importance of diversifying Aruba's markets. Mr. Bieman's vision was and still is to emphasize that if we destroy nature, our tourism will also be destroyed. He is a visionary who surely helped elevate our tourist product in Aruba and serves as an example for efforts in the area of sustainable management and development worldwide.

During the special reception on Wednesday, March 6, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of A.T.A., and Tirso Tromp, director of Europe for A.T.A., recognized Mr. Biemans for his pioneering efforts in the European market. With different partners and the European media present, they reflected on A.T.A.'s 35 years in Europe. Since 2009, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has received approximately 45 awards focusing on romance, sustainability, and guest experience. Mr. Biemans has a long history of experience in sustainable tourism. Some of the prizes received over the years include, among others, the Green Globe Certification and the Travelife Gold Certification. In 2014, Mr. Biemans was honored as hotelier of the year by the Caribbean Travel Awards. In 2016, he was recognized with a Gold Adrian Award as a leader in sustainable tourism by Hospitality Sales

& Marketing Association International (HSMAI) and National Geographic Traveler, and in 2017, he was recognized by Caribbean Journal as hotelier of the year. It should be mentioned that in the month of April, Mr. Biemans will be in Seville, Spain, to represent Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort as one of the finalists for the Global Tourism for Tomorrow Awards.

In 2015, a street in front of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort was named after Mr. Biemans, honoring his tireless work for the environment and tourism. The A.T.A. strives to follow the example of leaders like Mr. Biemans to ensure the well-being of our tourism product and promote the welfare of our environment and the entire community of Aruba. A.T.A is proud to be able to count on the leadership, support, and participation of Mr. Biemans in the development of Aruba's tourism and European tourism for Aruba. Congratulations and thank you! 🗋

Tickle your Taste Buds with Tierra del Sol



NOORD — There is a place on the Northern part of the island that makes up for your perfect dream night. The location: the island's rugged north coast and blue ocean forming your panoramic from Tierra del Sol's restaurant, either from the poolside outdoor terrace or from the elegant indoor restaurant. The offering: From breakfast to dinner excellent cuisine, friendly service, and a gorgeous setting, but now even Salad are only some of the

more special with the NEW 'All You Can Taste' concept on from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6PM – 10PM.

Tune in for an experience that will give dining another perspective. We are not talking about the standard 3-course menu, but about a journey through taste-land. The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu.

Fresh Oysters, Tuna Crab Duo, Bruchetta Caprese, Portobello Mushroom, Smoked Beef Tataki or Chicken Curry Waldorf



welcoming dishes. For the main courses you can decide for Skirt Steak, Duck Venison Duo or Pumpkin Risotto among others and to top it off with a sweet surrender a Duo of Quesillo & Brownie, Melon Martini or Cheesecake are one of the choices. This all for a special price and including a glass of sangria. Indulge into this culinary discovery at the most romantic scenery of our One Happy Island. 🗖

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019



Hand4additcs: Lending a helping hand



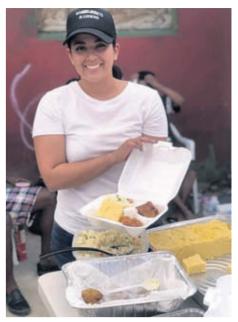
ORANJESTAD — Hand4Addicts is a foundation consisting of a group of volunteers who help the addicted in the city of Oranjestad. The help they provide is by giving them warm meals, clean clothes, a chance to bathe and get a haircut once a month. This way they can show to these people that they are still part of the community. The foundation wants to change the way our community views and interacts with the people who struggle with addiction. They are also someone's friend or family member and many times their basic needs are neglected. This is where Hand4additcs comes in.

The foundation is a non-profit organization that does not receive any help from the government. They are completely dependent on donations_ with most being done from our everyday people. They welcome all sorts of donations such as hygiene products, clothing, shoes, towels etc.

On Sunday, March 10th, 2019 the

foundation held an event for the month of March called "March 18th Edition." Since we are commemorating the Flag & National Anthem Day this month, they prepared some local food for the clients. A delicious soup and salad, together with a treat called" pan bollo" was served and the addict surely enjoyed it. They got their usual haircuts, showers and clean clothes_ and the smile on their faces said it all.





Being able to see them 'grateful' for a meal, shower, clean clothes and a haircut is priceless!

Their next event will be held on Sunday, April 21st, 2019 in front of the former Hotel Central in Oranjestad, starting at 10:30 AM.

For more information on how to lend a helping hand to this foundation please call 5931816 /5929224 or email them at hand4addicts@ gmail.com or check out their facebook page Hand4Addicts.

Honoring of loyal and friendly visitors



ORANJESTAD — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

dents of Road Island. Who have been honored as Distinguished Visitors and are staying at the Divi Phoenix Resort. They love the island very much for its beautiful weather and nice beaches.

Also honored were Rene and Lisa Mathieu residents of West Tibury. They have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors since they have been coming to the island for 25 consecutive years. Rene & Lisa love the island very much and they feel they are part of one big family of the One Happy Island.



Another honoree were the couple Ann Fogel & Rick Hemmert from Cincinnati. Who have been honored as Distinguished visitors. They have been coming for 11 consecutive visits to the island and are staying at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort.

Boekhoudt together with representatives of the Resorts presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home.

The honorees are Angel & Robert Stevens, resi-







— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO — \$1,000 in Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play. Win \$25 to \$250 in Free Slot Play. Play up to five times each Wednesday.

See Club for details.



Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory.

Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to Aruba Today newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today's newspaper we received a great picture from

Jessica Guthrie from Canada. She wrote:

Aruba to us is... PARADISE!





Hope for All, Green for Health

by HopeAruba Movement NOORD — Aruba is a nation of hopeful individuals, who want the best for their island. It is a fact that the Social challenges facing our island affect us all in one way or another. Whether it is child abuse or neglect, domestic violence, lifecontrolling addictions, the high rate of high-school drop outs, increasing poverty, etc. etc., when one is affected, we are all affected.

While we understand that it is the role of government to be the primary catalyst in providing the framework, platform and financing for addressing these social challenges, we also understand that the government is not necessarily the only agent to heal these issues. Understanding both our responsibility and privilege as citizens, whether individual or corporate, to play an active part in creating the future we want to see, is critical if we are to heal our nation.

We must understand the severe rectly or indirectly. Government ficonsequences of the long-term mismanagement of Public Finances and how this affects us all, di-



nancial aid for social organizations has dropped by more than 50% in the past years. So what are we to

do? A group of citizens decided... we will start by taking responsibility! This prompted the birth of HopeAruba Movement's first Social Im-

pact Business, Goshen Sustainable Development Corporation VBA and HopeAruba's first Social Impact Vehicle under the HopeAruba Fundacion Restauracion banner Cas Speransa Nobo.

We started small...one seed at a time...and we GREW!

We developed the Goshen Smoothie and we started to develop an Agri-Tourism niche "Farm to Table" experience, a unique experience for our visitors ... a true "taste of Aruba. Coming in 2019, we will open:

- Goshen Villas - A Bed & Breakfast concept and Momentous Café at Goshen at Alto Vista 52, as we grow our business to provide entrepreneurial solutions to social challenges. And of course, Goshen's main purpose is to support vehicles for social change as we engage in business with a purpose, we can be an instrument for national transformation!

More information is to be found at Facebook HopeAruba Movement and goshen sustainable development corporation vba.

T=DAY.

LOCAL MIT WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 13 All you can Eat Ribs

- All you can eat ribs are on Wednesdays!! Accompanied with a
- Salad, Cole Slaw and French fries. From 6:00 PM till 10:00
- ΡM Mango's Bar at The Mill
- Resort & Suites Aruba
- The Mill Resort & Suites Aruba



Sunday 17

Shamrock Luck ~ Irish Pop-Up

Feeling Lucky?

- Celebrate the luckiest weekend of the year with Renaissance Aruba's St. Patrick's ~ Irish Pop-up. A weekend filled with festivities, shamrocks, green beer and a lot of food!
- From 4:00 PM till 12:00 AM
- Renaissance Marketplace, Ex-Sidebar
- Facebook Renaissance Aruba resort & Casino

Thursday 14 Fundraising Bake sale

- The foundation for the visually impaired is preparing a sweet tooth especially for you. Enjoy some delicious cakes together with a superb cup of coffee. Sweets, coffee and music and all for a great cause.
- From 9:00 AM till 11:30 AM
- Favi, Primavera 233
- Facebook Favi



Friday 15

Zumbathon Fundraising Event

We invite you to try Zumba with the islands best Zumba instructors. Dance to the benefits of the children of the Orphanage Imelda Hof.

- From 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Kinderhuis Imeldahof, Next to St.
- Anna Church, Noord Facebook Kinderhuis Imeldahof

saturday to

Aruba Doet- Do what needs to be Done!

- Renovating, building, cleaning, organizing and gardening is something you would like to volunteer to? This is your chance. Join the biggest volunteer event on Aruba. Checkout the website for the list of all projects.
- Starts at 8:00 AM
- Different locations
- www.arubadoet.com

Monday 18

Aruba's National Flag & Anthem Day

- Celebration of this day is to be seen all over the islands. Want to know more about our island history? How about visiting some great museums such as Museo Historico Aruba in Oranjestad or the Museum of Industry, Community Museum or Carnival Euphoria all in San Nicolas.
- From 10:00 AM
- **Different Locations**
- Facebook Fundacion Museo Aruba





Tuesday 19

Full Moon & Stars Gazing at California Lighthouse

- Aruba's most visited landmark will be for an incredible night viewing opportunity with the Full Moon. Experience beautiful sights of the moon, the landscape and even stars depending on the clouds! This March 2019 it will be a Full Worm Moon!
- From 7:00 PM till 10:00 PM
- California Lighthouse
- Facebook California Lighthouse Aruba



SPORTS

NHL: Maple Leafs' Reilly didn't utter gay slur at official

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Morgan Rielly didn't direct a gay slur at referee Brad Meier during the game against the Tampa Bay Lightning, the NHL said Tuesday after an investigation.

Television cameras picked up what sounded like a slur with 1:51 left in the second period when Rielly and Tampa Bay's Yanni Gourde skated into Toronto's defensive zone.

The NHL launched an investigation shortly after the Lightning's 6-2 win on Monday night when clips began appearing on social media.

"League officials interviewed several of the participants in the game including Rielly and Meier — and reviewed video of the alleged incident. All of those interviewed adamantly denied that Rielly uttered a slur and the audio supported their statements," Colin Campbell, the NHL's executive vice president and director of hockey operations, said in a statement.

"The National Hockey League does not tolerate language or gestures that disparage anyone based on their race, creed or sexual orientation and continues to work to ensure that our games are played in a welcoming atmosphere for all of our players, coaches officials and fans."

The league didn't say if the slur had been used, just that it wasn't uttered by Rielly. The 25-year-old joined Maple Leafs general manager Kyle Dubas at a press conference Tuesday.

Continued on Page 21



Houston Rockets' Kenneth Faried (35) dunks the ball as Charlotte Hornets' Willy Hernangomez (41) and Dwayne Bacon watch during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 11, 2019, in Houston.

TEDAY

T=DAY

SPORTS A19 WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019







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Another receiver megadeal: **Giants trade Beckham to Browns**

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer While the free agency spending frenzy runs wild, the Giants and Browns found a way to overshadof Odell Beckham Jr.

New York is sending its star receiver to Cleveland for first- and second-round draft picks in April and safety Jabrill Peppers in the second blockbuster trade in four days. On Saturday, Pittsburgh sent unhappy wideout Antonio Brown to Oakland, a deal Brown forced.

Beckham is the NFL's highest-paid receiver; he got a five-year, \$90 million extension last August. He comes off two injury-plagued seasons, but when healthy is a game-breaking target, just like Brown.

The two trades become official Wednesday when the league's business year begins. People with knowledge of the moves told The Associated Press of the trades, speaking anonymously because the transactions can't be announced until after 4 p.m. EDT on Wednesday.

Beckham is known for his catches gravity-defying and breakaway skills, but also for being temperamental. He was suspended for one game in 2015 for his on-field battles with cornerback Josh Norman, then with Carolina.

and Pittsburgh have been weakened in the offseason.

With Beckham reunited The Jets had more than with receiver Jarvis Landry, a teammate at LSU, it gives free agency, and they are quarterback Baker Mayfield two top targets. The

Browns, who went 7-8-1 last ment with Vikings linebackseason after not winning a game in 2017, haven't made the playoffs since 2002.

The mega-trade came ow it Tuesday night: a trade hours after another busy day of dealmaking.

> The money flowed out of New Jersey, with the Jets agreeing Tuesday to contracts with three players: wide receivers Jamison Crowder and Josh Bellamy, and linebacker C.J. Mosley. The team also will re-sign cornerback Darryl Roberts. It streamed out of Green Bay, with the Packers getting deals with edge rusher Za'Darius Smith, linebacker Preston Smith, safety Adrian Amos and offensive lineman Billy Turner. The Packers also cut veteran linebacker Nick Perry.

And it poured out of Oakland once more when the Raiders kept their vault open and agreed to a fouryear contract with safety Lamarcus Joyner. The Raiders previously made big moves on offense by trading for Brown and agreeing to a deal with tackle Trent Brown

Given the "legal tampering" freedom the league now allows for two days, well, let Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta describe the mayhem.

"Unfortunately for us, the market is irrational at times and we can't be held responsible for what other Cleveland suddenly looks teams want to pay," Delike a force in an AFC North Costa said. "All we can do in which both Baltimore is try to negotiate in good faith with agents and the players."

JETS

\$82.5 million to spend in spending it. They thought they also had an agreeer Anthony Barr, but he opted instead to return to Minnesota.

Not that the Jets fell short in adding talent. The 26-yearold Mosley is a four-time Pro Bowl linebacker who will get a reported five years and \$85 million, including a whopping \$51 million guaranteed.



In this Dec. 30, 2018, file photo, Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith gestures in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns in Baltimore.

Associated Press





Rockets beat Hornets 118-106, run win streak to 9 games

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 28 points and Eric Gordon added 22 as the Houston Rockets cruised to their season-high ninth straight win, 118-106 over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night.

A night after Gordon ended a streak of 43 straight games where Harden led the team in scoring, the Beard was Houston's top scorer again. But Gordon had another strong outing, making five 3-pointers for the third straight game and the fourth in five games.The Rockets won despite a big performance by Kemba Walker, who finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists as the Hornets lost their second in a row. **THUNDER 98, JAZZ 89**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Dennis Schroder scored 24 points, Russell Westbrook added 23 points, 11 rebounds, and eight assists, and Oklahoma City beat Utah to sweep the season series.

Westbrook appeared to argue with fans of the Jazz, who knocked the Thunder out of the postseason last



Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) drives toward the basket as Charlotte Hornets' Kemba Walker defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 11, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

year.

Paul George chipped in 14 points and 11 rebounds. Steven Adams and Jerami Grant added 12 points apiece.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah, which shot just 36 percent from the field. Royce O'Neale added 17 points while Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 140, CELTICS 115 LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lou Williams scored 34 points and became the NBA's career leader in points off the bench as Los Angeles beat Boston for its fifth straight win.

Williams came into the game needing 28 points to pass Dell Curry, who had 11,147 points when not

starting. Williams surpassed Curry with 9:53 remaining in the fourth quarter with a driving layup.

It is also Williams' 29th career game with 30 or more points. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, starters and reserves were tracked in box scores beginning with the 1970-71 season. Terry Rozier led the Celtics with 26 points while Jaylen Brown added 22 and Kyrie Irving 18. Boston had a three-game winning streak snapped as it was trying to become the second Eastern Conference team this season to win all four

games in California. NETS 103, PISTONS 75

NEW YORK (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 19 points and Brooklyn routed Detroit to move into sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Allen Crabbe finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, Rodions Kurucs scored 13 points, and Joe Harris and Caris LeVert each added 12 as the Nets took control early in the game and never let up.

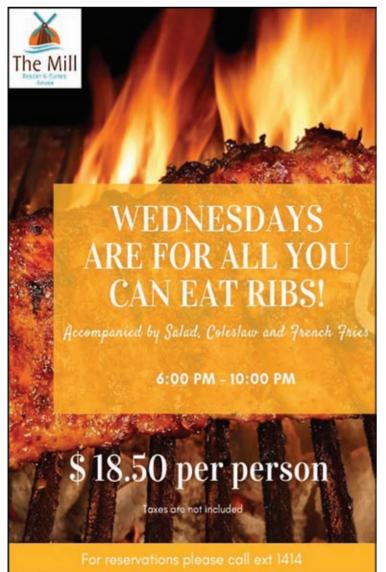
The Nets (36-33) won their fourth straight and leapfrogged Detroit (34-32) into the No. 6 spot in their final game before leaving for a seven-game road trip.

Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 13 points and 20 rebounds. Blake Griffin finished with 10 points, but only shot 1 of 10 from the field as Detroit was held to its lowest point total of the season. The Pistons had their five-game winning streak snapped.CAVALIERS **126, RAPTORS 101**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Collin Sexton scored 28 points, Kevin Love had 16 points and 18 rebounds, and Cleveland routed Toronto.

Toronto's Serge Ibaka and Cleveland's Marquese Chriss were ejected for fighting late in the third quarter. Ibaka went to the floor after the two were battling for position under Cleveland's basket as the Raptors attempted a fullcourt pass that sailed out of bounds.

Ibaka shoved Chriss from behind and grabbed near his neck before throwing a punch. Chriss responded with a punch before players from both teams separated the two. Ibaka immediately headed for the locker room and both players were kicked out after the officials conferred.





Greiss, Islanders beat Blue Jackets 2-0

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Thomas Greiss made 31 saves in his fifth shutout of the season, helping the New York Islanders beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 2-0 on Monday night.

Ryan Pulock and Anders Lee scored as New York (40-22-7) improved its playoff positioning in the tough Metropolitan Division. The Islanders improved to 16-8-1 against divisional opponents.

Columbus (38-28-3) lost for the fourth time in six games, dropping into a tie with Montreal for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference. Sergei Bobrovsky made 18 saves, but the Blue Jackets were unable to get to the steady Greiss.

Pulock put the Islanders in front when he drove a slap shot by Bobrovsky 6:11 into the first. Pulock surpassed his point total from his rookie year, registering his 33rd point of his sophomore season.

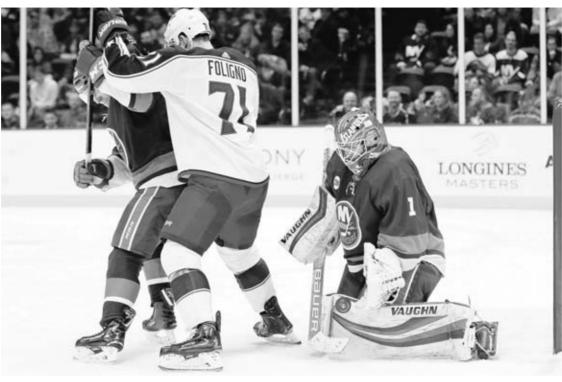
Lee added an empty-netter in the third period.

SHARKS 3, WILD 0

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Martin Jones made 24 saves to continue his hot streak and lead San Jose to its fifth straight win.

Barclay Goodrow, Tomas Hertl and Logan Couture scored for the Sharks. Devan Dubnyk made 26 saves for the Wild.

For Jones, it was his third The Flyers have won four



New York Islanders goaltender Thomas Greiss makes a save behind Columbus Blue Jackets left wing Nick Foligno (71) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 11, 2019, in Uniondale. N.Y.

shutout and 34th win of the season. Twenty-five of those wins have come since the start of December, the best total in the league over that span. Jones is the first goaltender in San Jose history to post four consecutive 30-win seasons, and he's the only goaltender in the league since 2015-16 to have four 30-win seasons. **FLYERS 3, SENATORS 2**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Oskar Lindblom, Michael Raffl and Scott Laughton scored in the second period to lead hard-charging Philadelphia to the win. The Elvers have won four of five games to move into the wild-card race. Brian Elliott, subbing for the injured Corey Hart, made 20 saves. The lowly Senators lost for the 11th time in 12 games. Chris Tierney and Filip Chlapik scored, and Craig Anderson stopped 33 shots. HURRICANES 3, AVA-LANCHE 0

DENVER (AP) — Andrei Svechnikov had two goals and an assist, Petr Mrazek stopped 38 shots and Carolina earned a rare win at Pepsi Center.

Defenseman Dougie Hamilton also scored as the Hurricanes won in Denver for just the second time in 13 games since Colorado moved into its longtime home for the 1999-2000 season.

Associated Press

Mrazek's fourth shutout of the season propelled the Hurricanes into a tie with Pittsburgh for third place in the Metropolitan Division. Carolina currently holds the tiebreaker.

Colorado remains two points behind Minnesota for the final wild-card spot. The Wild lost earlier to San Jose. Philipp Grubauer turned back 30 shots. He was back in net over Semyon Varlamov after shutting out Buffalo on Saturday. LIGHTNING 6, MAPLE LEAFS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Tyler Johnson and Cedric Paquette each scored two goals, powering the NHLleading Lightning to another victory.

Anthony Cirelli and Ondrej Palat also scored for Tampa Bay (53-13-4), and Ryan McDonagh, Yanni Gourde and Jan Rutta had two assists apiece. Nikita Kucherov helped set up the game's first goal for his NHL-best 111th point of the season.

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 26 saves to improve to 12-1-2 over his last 15 starts.

Auston Matthews and Connor Brown scored for Toronto (42-22-5). Frederik Andersen allowed four goals on 19 shots before he was pulled early in the second period. Garret Sparks finished with 21 saves in relief. **BLACKHAWKS 7, COYOTES** 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Brendan Perlini scored three goals against his former team for his first career hat trick, and the Blackhawks earned their third straight win.

Patrick Kane fired in his 41st goal as Chicago moved within five points of the second wild card in the Western Conference. Jonathan Toews, Brandon Saad and Chris Kunitz also scored, and Corey Crawford made 24 saves.

GAY SLUR

Continued from Page 18

"I didn't hear it," Rielly said of the slur. "I know I didn't use that word and I didn't hear it during play. I did listen to the video.

"I'm not sure if it came from the ice or not. Either way, that word has no place in this building. This is a team that wants to be involved in the community and with the movement."

Dubas said he was about to leave the rink Monday night when notified of the alleged comments.

"When it came out that it was Morgan who was alleged to have used a homophobic slur, it was surprising to me, to say the least," Dubas said. "I've known Morgan now for five years and this is a cause that he's supported socially throughout his time here." A few weeks ago, Rielly

asked to be formally involved in the gay pride parade in Toronto this June, Dubas said.

A Vancouver native, Rielly was Toronto's first-round pick in the 2012 draft. He's second among NHL defensemen in scoring this season, with 18 goals and 47 assists in 69 games.

The NHL has issued fines and suspensions in the past for players using slurs.

Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf was fined \$10,000, the maximum under the NHL's collective bargaining agreement, when TV cameras recorded him appearing to shout a gay slur toward an official during the 2017 playoffs.

Chicago forward Andrew Shaw, now with Montreal, was suspended one game and fined \$5,000 for directing a gay slur toward an official during the 2016 playoffs. Last month, the NHL celebrated Hockey is For Everyone. The Leafs hosted 30 players from the Toronto Gay Hockey Association during a You Can Play awareness night on Feb. 24. The group works for inclusion in sports, including LGBTQ athletes, coaches and fans. \Box



Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Morgan Rielly speaks during a press conference with general manager Kyle Dubas Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Toronto, as they address an NHL investigation into an alleged slur used during an NHL hockey game the night before against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

A22 SPORTS WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019



Woods no long feeling pain in the neck at Players



In this Feb. 22, 2019, file photo, Tiger Woods prepares to catch a ball tossed by his caddied on the second day of competition of the WGC-Mexico Championship golf tournament at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City.

By DOUG FERGUSON **AP Golf Writer** PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Tiger Woods no longer has a pain in the neck. The trick going forward for Woods is to make sure the soreness that caused him to withdraw from the Arnold Palmer Invitational doesn't keep him from missing more tournaments the rest of his injury-filled career. "I'm 43 with four back surgeries so must manage what I have and understand that I'm going to have good weeks and bad weeks and try and manage as best I possibly can and not push it," Woods said Tuesday after a ninehole practice round at The Players Championship

"There are times when over the years I pushed it, pushed through a few things, and I've won a few tournaments doing it that way," he said. "But also, I've cost myself a few years here and there because of it."

Woods chose not to push it last week by skipping Bay Hill, where he has won eight times.

He had fusion surgery on his lower spine in April 2017 - his fourth surgery on his back in four years — and it allowed him to return to a level that saw him win last year at the Tour Championship, play in another Ryder Cup and return to the top The Valspar Championship 15 in the world ranking.

Woods said his neck first bothered him last summer at the British Open, where he was seen wearing kinesiology tape, and at times during a big stretch of tournaments during the FedEx Cup playoffs.

It flared up again at the Genesis Open last month, and then got worse in Mexico City the following week. "It was getting to the point where it was affecting my setup, my backswing, my through swing," Woods said. "It was just gradually getting worse. That's just because my lower back is

fused, and so the stress has to go somewhere if I don't have movement, and so it's very important for me going forward since the surgery to keep pliable or else the stress is going to go somewhere else.

Woods did not want to commit to a pre-Masters schedule until after The Players was over.

next week is where he was runner-up last year. That's followed by the Dell Technologies Match Play, a World Golf Championship for which he had not been eligible since 2014.

Asked specifically about Match Play, Woods said, "If nothing flares up, then I'll play."

Either way, he was not concerned about being prepared for the Masters, which starts April 11, as he tries to end 10 years without winning a major. Assuming this week goes well and he goes to Texas for the Match Play, that would give him

five tournaments before the Masters.

Woods played between five and six times before the Masters during younger and healthier times over the last 15 years.

"I've played three this year so far, and that's about right," he said. "I was going to play three or four. If I would have gotten my rounds in last week, it would have been four tournaments, so I'm right there where I need to be. My finishes are getting a little bit better each and every time I've gone out so far this year, and I've gotten a little bit more consistent with my play. And I think that everything is headed on track toward April."

As for his health, Woods this year, though he not does not consider that a major concern.

Long before the back surgeries, he had four surgeries on his left knee, the worst of them in 2008 a week after he won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. He also has **Associated Press**

dealt with an Achilles' heel problem and what he described as a left arm issue at the 2013 U.S. Open.

"It's more just my lower back," Woods said. "I've got to keep that moving, even though it's fixed. I've got to keep all the other structures pliable, and that's one of the issues of having a procedure like I did, that the forces have to go somewhere. I've got to stay fit, I've got to stay on it, and have to stay as loose as I possibly can for as long as I play out here."

For now, Woods is trying to keep his game moving in the right direction as the Masters draws near. He has not finished out of the top 20 in his three starts finished closer than eight shots of the winner.

The Players Championship has returned to its March date, and Woods is the only player in the 144-man field to have won it in March (2001) and May (2013).





In this June 9, 2017, file photo, Houston Astros pitcher Francis Martes waits to warm up before a baseball against the Los Angeles Angeles in Houston.

Associated Press

Naomi Osaka, of Japan, returns a shot to Danielle Collins at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Monday, March 11, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif. **Associated Press**

Astros pitcher Martes suspended for 80 games for drug test

NEW YORK (AP) - Injured Houston Astros pitcher Francis Martes has been suspended for 80 games following a positive test for the banned performanceenhancing drug Clomiphene.

The anti-estrogen substance is used in fertility treatments and is employed by men to accelerate testosterone production. It is taken along with steroids to inhibit estrogen problems.

Houston says in a statement "we hope that Francis can learn from this experience and that he returns to have a successful career." A 23-year-old right-hander, Martes was considered the Astros' top prospect entering 2017 and made his ma-

jor league debut that June. He was 5-2 with a 5.80 ERA in four starts and 28 relief appearances for the Astros, striking out 69 and walking 31 in 54 1/3 innings. He made four starts last April for Triple-A Fresno, hurt his elbow, and made a one-inning injury rehabilitation appearance for the Gulf Coast Astros on Aug. 2. He had Tommy John surgery on Aug. 15 and was expected to miss most or all of this season.

Martes' suspension, announced Tuesday, was the second this year under the major league drug program after Kansas City pitcher Eric Skoglund. Nine players have been suspended this year under the minor league program.

the first and lined an oppo-

site-field second-inning RBI

single to left off the right-

hander. Davis agreed to

a \$161 million, seven-year

contract with the Orioles in

January 2016.

Osaka wins, Djokovic match delayed by rain at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) - Naomi Osaka rolled past Danielle Collins 6-4, 6-2 in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Monday night, keeping the world's No. 1 player on track to defend her title.

Novak Djokovic, the topranked men's player, held serve to win his opening game against Philipp Kohlschreiber in their night match. The German owned the advantage on his serve in the second game before rain began falling. The match was later suspended for the night.

Collins struggled with her serve throughout the match, committing seven double faults and connecting on just 47 percent of her first serves.

Osaka's first-serve percentage was 66 and she won 70 percent of her first-serve points.

"In the first set I was just really flat-footed. I didn't feel like I was moving well at all," Osaka said. "Then I just tried to really hype myself up. My mindset was just to keep trying to get my feet moving and stay pumped up and positive."

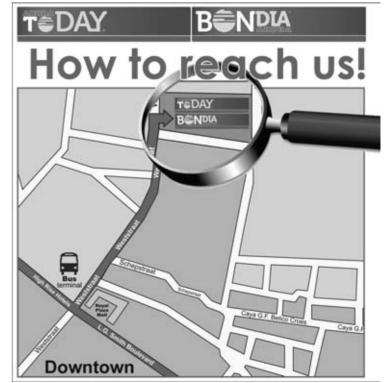
Osaka won her first career title at Indian Wells a year ago, propelling her to a career-best year in which she defeated Serena Williams for the U.S. Open title.

She began this year winning the Australian Open and moving to the top of the rankings. After that triumph, she fired her coach and lost in the first round in Dubai before taking on a new coach, Jermaine Jenkins.

"It is different from last year, but I think I am getting used to it," Osaka said. "I have been practicing on Court 3 for the past few days, and I'm really grateful there is a lot of people that come out and watch. I try to sign all of the signatures."

Venus Williams is turning back her own clock, moving into the fourth round with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over gualifier Christina McHale. Williams is seeking her 50th career WTA Tour title in the desert, where she has never won the event. And at 38, she's showing vintage form. "I don't really play that often, so when I do, I need to play well," she said. "It's extra motivation for me to play just a little bit better out there."

Serena Williams, a two-time champion at Indian Wells, retired from her match on Sunday because of a viral illness. Ranked 36th in the world, Venus Williams endured three sets in her first two matches. 🔲



Orioles' Davis goes 1 for 2 in return from hip injury

from Jonathan Loaisiga in

Davis went 1 for 2 in his return from a strained left hip flexor as the designated hitter for the Baltimore Orioles against the New York Yankees on Tuesday night. Coming off a dreadful season, Davis is 2 for 14 with eight strikeouts in six spring

TAMPA, Fla, (AP) — Chris games. He took a called third strike





By: Dr Carlos Viana

Spring in Aruba is characterized by strong Trade winds; we call this time of the year Charisma. As we approach clinic, many people are quietly waiting for their Traditional Chinese Medicine consultation. Others are restless and are talking loudly, almost shouting. Aruba is unbearable with no wind, but for some heavy wind becomes destructive. In China we call the destructive effects of breeze "wind evil." Most people can withstand the negative consequences, but some, who have been consuming greasy food, drinking too much alcohol, or working overtime, fall "sick." Anger, frustration, resentment, and hatred, over a long period of time can also make one susceptible to the negative effects of heavy wind.

Today's symptoms include: anemia, hepatitis, menstrual problems, pale broken fingernails, eye and muscle twitching and sleeping problems. Some, wind afflicted people, can be spotted from afar. They have a green hue around their mouths. Some, as they walk, leave a trail of strong perfume being used to cover up a sour body smell. Others barely walk in before they cry out that they are "going crazy." Many hear me say: "Your liver is hot!" "What?"

Spring Fever

they ask "is something wrong with my liver? A "hot" or "liver fire" will not show up on any medical test, except as possibly liver hepatitis. If a medical symptom cannot be measured on a laboratory result sheet, does it really exist? To some doctors, if all the tests come back "normal," then the problem is in your head, especially, if the original complaints are emotional. Regular doctors are trained to only look at the physical structure or anatomy of organs.

An Oriental Medical Doctor (OMD) is trained to look at the amount of energy being consumed by an organ in relation to the others. We use three positions in both radial pulses to determine the amount of energy being, or not being used by each organ. The third position tells us about Kidney Yin. Without this there is no Yin energy to send to the Liver. Deficient liver Yin develops hyperthyroidism or over-active thyroid gland, hypertension or high blood pressure, and/or eye problems. If the deficiencies persist the rising "Liver Fire" affects the stomach and heart. Heart Yin becomes deficient. Disturbed sleep becomes full blown insomnia, heart palpitations and disturbed hearing. Unchecked, the continuing deficiencies become "Heart Fire Blazing Upwards" which reaches the head and produces ringing in the ears, dry/watery or twitching eyes, headaches and migraines.

Insufficient Kidney Yin starts the over- production of epinephrine also called adrenaline, which stimulates the sympathetic nervous system. Epinephrine makes the heart beat faster, and closes or dilates the blood vessels. People complain of heart trouble. High blood pressure is affected by epinephrine. Epinephrine's over production is the basis of emotional problems of people of "Liver Fire."

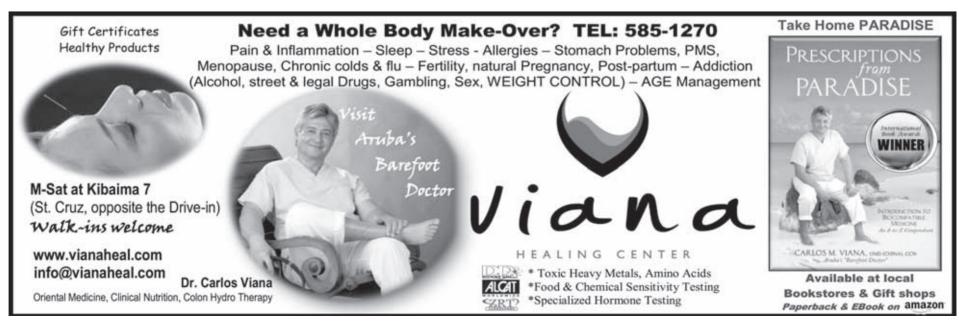
Unfortunately, pharmaceutical drugs to lower blood pressure, tranquilizers, blood building tonics that contain iron, birth control pills and numerous other chemical drugs including recreational drugs and alcohol are injurious to the liver which tries to breakdown these poisons into simpler compounds. Western medical researchers at Duke University reported when women with high hostility levels take oral contraceptives, they may have a sharply higher blood pressure when under stress. Any OMD already knows this. Hostile women are the ones with existing "liver Fire" whose livers are further burdened by trying to break down the synthetic sexual hormones.

Traditional Chinese Medicine views a healthy Liver as "The General" who sends energy in the form of fluid to various parts of the body. If the General's "palace," the liver, is on fire, the chain of command is broken. Menstrual flow becomes heavy or "reckless" and menstrual problems; bladder and painful lower stomachs develop. Although, sexual desire drops, satisfying sexual activity is a great way to help "calm" the Liver. Acupuncture treatments are fantastic in improving a "hot" Liver. Dandelion, Milk Thistle, and Chicory Root herbs are beneficial to the liver. Eating natural healthy food that has not been fried and slowing down alcohol consumption helps dramatically.

In the People's Republic of China, when someone becomes angry, we tell them "Don't show me your liver." Excess anger hurts the Liver and Gall Bladder. How many people do you know that have had their gall bladder removed? Had they been treated for "Liver Fire," many would have saved their gall bladder. An excess of Liver can mean a feeling of being STUCK. People with "hot Liver" are angry ALL the time, or have an inability to express anger, feelings of frustration and inner conflict.

Get The Point! The healthy balance for you is to be able to appropriately feel and express all emotions. For us Oriental Medical Doctors every imbalance or illness is coupled with an emotion. Listen to your voice. Is there a shouting, aggressive, or forceful tone? Are you unable to make decisions, particularly, whether to leave your spouse, your job, your city, because you feel you are going "nowhere?" Many medical problems could in fact be your Liver crying out for help, learn to take care of it. And, enjoy the refreshing winds of spring.

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Millennial Money: Paying debt back home vexes expats

By KELSEY SHEEHY **Associated Press**

A close friend recently told me: "If I'd waited two years, my education would have cost half as much."

Not because she would have chosen a different graduate program or qualified for more scholarships. But because the value of the local currency dropped.

She's an American expat who works in Cape Town, South Africa, and is paid in rand. The exchange rate was 7 rand to 1 U.S. dollar when she took out federal student loans to pay for a master's program, but it later fell to 14 rand to the dollar. So, now that she's repaying those loans, her money is worth half as much.

estimated 9 million An Americans live abroad, not counting military service members, according to the State Department. If you dream of being one of them, debt obligations back home don't have to stop you, but they can make things more complicated.

In this Aug. 6, 2018, file photo people walk by a mural displaying world currency symbols on display outside a bank in Beijing.

just one obstacle you'll have to navigate. Wire transfers, time differences and limited access to financial services in the U.S. can also make it a pain to pay debt as an expat. And where you move, how you're paid and to whom you owe money can have a big impact on how convenient it is to deal with

debt. DOLLAR, DOLLAR BILLS, Y'ALL

Maya McCoy has lived abroad for nine years, first in the Philippines and now in Singapore. In that time, the Los Angeles native has paid off roughly \$70,000 in student loans and handled two U.S. mortgages. Her first job split her pay, so

Associated Press

she earned half her salary in Philippine pesos, deposited into her local bank account. The other half was in U.S. dollars, deposited into a bank account she kept in the States, which she used to pay U.S. creditors.

This payment arrangement meant McCoy could largely avoid the arduous task of sending money back to

America, which at the time was an hours-long affair. LOCATION, LOCATION, LO-CATION

The ability to easily (and affordably) transfer money to U.S. bank accounts can vary from country to country. "In Philippines, everything was paper," McCoy says. You had to "take a number, have a seat, wait for the maybe one person in the whole bank who deals with these sorts of transactions." Now, in Singapore, "I don't even have to leave my house."

The value and stability of the currency can also vary. Currencies in countries like Singapore, Canada and Australia have remained relatively stable over the past 10 years.

That makes it easier for expats earning in the local currency. Their money is always more or less worth the same, so there's less need to obsess over exchange rates. That's not the case in places like South Africa, Norway or Brazil, where the value of local currency against the U.S. dollar has dropped considerably over the past decade.

Currency fluctuations are

US consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in February

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in February, pushed up slightly by higher gasoline and housing costs even as the prices for autos and clothing slumped.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that the consumer price index rose a modest 1.5 percent last month from a year ago.

Inflation has been muted despite the solid job market, causing average hourly earnings — after being adjusted for consumer prices — to climb 1.9 percent in the past year. This marks the strongest inflation-adjusted wage growth since November 2015, an increase that would likely help consumer spending and economic growth.

The low level of inflation also gives the Federal Reserve more flexibility in holding off on further increases to a for 2019. key short-term interest rate, enabling the U.S. central bank to provide support for economic growth.

Some economists expect inflation to pick up as the benefits of higher wages flow through the economy. "Although inflation has slowed in recent months, it should move gradually higher in the spring and summer," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. "Higher energy prices will push up overall inflation, and rising wages will lead businesses to raise prices in an effort to

maintain profit margins." lan Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said the consumer price index could breach 2.5 percent by the end of the year, which could create a problem for the Fed if holds year ago. School tuition prices plunged 1 percent in rates at their current level and child care costs have February, while new-auto

Still, even with modest inflation, many Americans are already facing higher in February.

increased 3 percent over the past 12 months. Food prices jumped 0.4 percent

prices for basic necessities. Gasoline prices surged 1.5 Housing costs continue to percent in February, but

prices slipped 0.2 percent. Excluding the volatile energy and food categories, core prices increased 0.1 percent in February and 2.1 percent from a year ago.



This Nov. 16, 2018, file photo shows gas prices at a pump in West Mifflin, Pa. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019. **Associated Press**

outpace overall inflation, they're 9.1 percent lower rising 3.4 percent from a from last year. Clothing

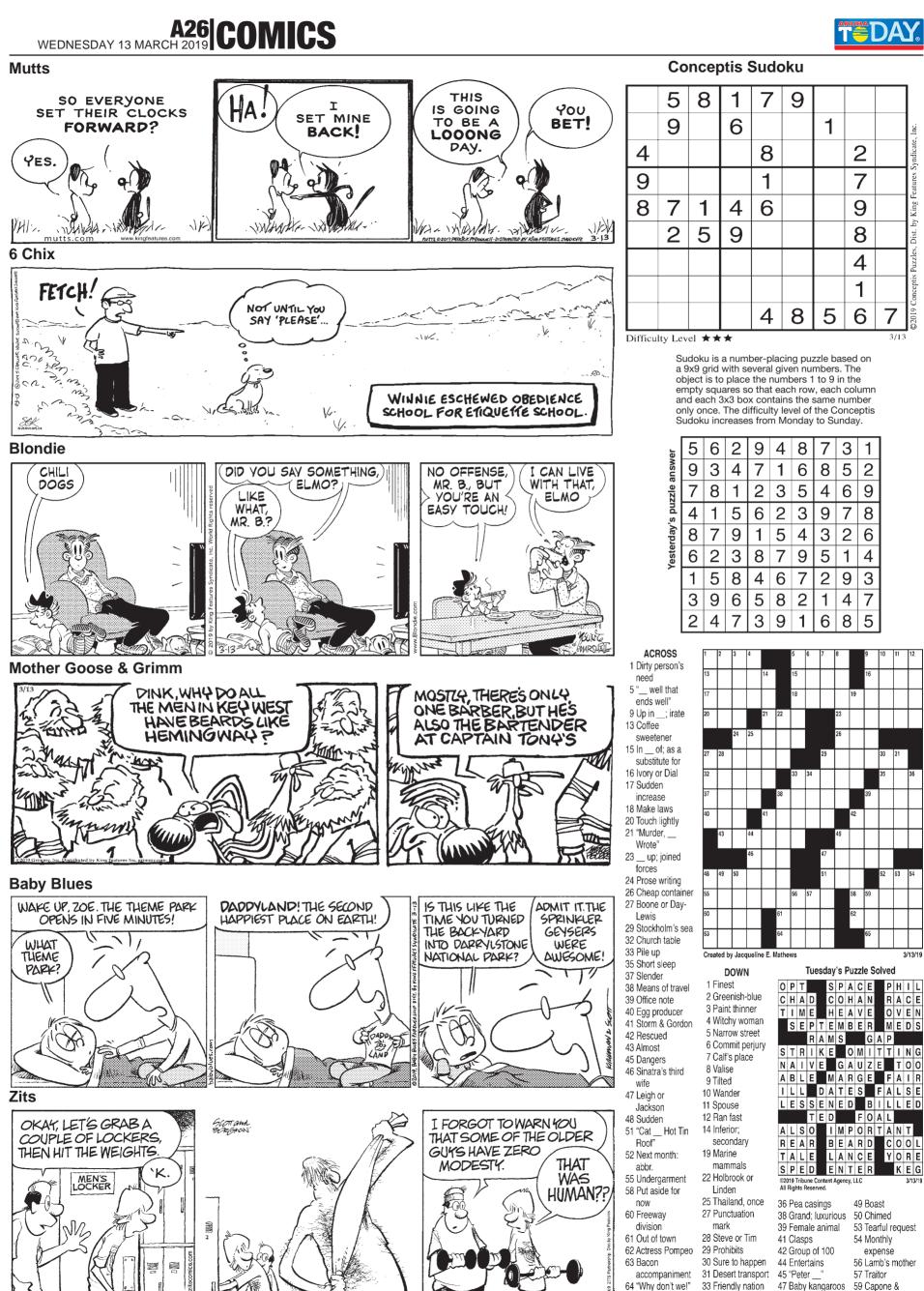


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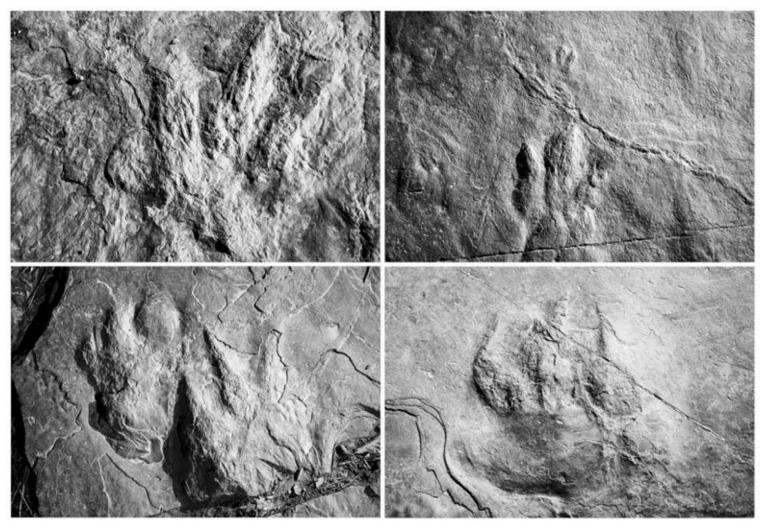
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Dinosaur tracks make fresh impression at Valley Forge park



In this Feb. 28, 2019 photo combination shown are fossilized dinosaur footprints and a non-dinosaur reptile, lower right, a relative of the modern crocodile, on paving stones at the Valley Forge National Historical Park in Valley Forge, Pa. Associated Press

By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (AP) — The national park on the site where George Washington and the struggling Continental Army endured a tough winter during the American Revolution boasts a new feature that's a couple of hundred million years old — dozens of fossilized dinosaur footprints discovered on rocks used to pave a section of hiking trail.

The trace fossils, as they are known, are scattered along a winding trail at Valley Forge National Historical Park, on slabs purchased in 2011 from a nearby commercial quarry.

To the untrained eye, they on the Gettysburg battleappear as indistinguishable field, about 100 miles (161

bumps in the sandstone rock, with the largest about 9 inches long. On a recent weekday, hikers, joggers and dog walkers used the trail, oblivious to the marks of prehistoric animals beneath their feet.

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 SCIENCE

Those marks drew the attention of Tom Stack not long after he began working as a volunteer park ambassador at Valley Forge in 2017.

Stack, who has a background in geology and paleontology, recognized the approximately 210 million-year-old rocks known as argillite as being similar in age and type to fossilbearing rocks used to construct a 1930s-era bridge on the Gettysburg battlefield, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) to the west. Most of the tracks left in what were once muddy flats consist of three-toed foot impressions from the early days of dinosaurs, although Stack also found footprints from a non-dinosaur reptile, a relative of the modern crocodile. The largest would have been a bipedal theropod that was 6 (1.8 meters) to 9 feet (2.7 meters) long and 4 (1.2 meters) to 6 feet (1.8 meters) high

"They're subtle, they're not easy to spot, but once you learn the characteristics of them, given the right sunlight angle and, at times, the moisture on the rock, then they are easier to identify," Stack said.

There are also distinctive patterns in the rock thought to be caused by the cracking of dried mud, and from the ripples of a lake or river. The National Park Service requested the exact location of the rocks not be publicized, to help protect them from being damaged or removed. Officials said visitors will be told about the rocks and how park re-

sources are protected, but not where to find them. The 5-square-mile (13 square kilometer) park has about 30 miles (48 kilometers) of trail. The dinosaur footprints Stack found are not unique or even particularly rare, and don't add to the body of scientific knowledge about the creatures, said National Park Service paleontology program coordinator Vince Santucci. They date from later in the Triassic period and before the Jurassic era that's so familiar to moviegoers.

"There's no question that they are" dinosaur trace fossils, said Santucci, who examined them in person last April. "They're consistent with the tracks that occur in equivalent-age beds all over the East Coast."

More than 270 National Park Service properties contain some sort of paleontological resource, from Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah to the fossils scattered in rock used to build the Lincoln Memorial and Capitol Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C. Most fossils found on Park Service land are still where they were discovered, in the original bedrock location. But others were moved by human activity, including a set of burrows from an ancient species that appear on the rock facade of a visitor's center bathroom at Valley Forge. Those rocks originated outside the park.

There also happens to be a significant Ice Age fossil location beneath the Valley Forge park, the Port Kennedy bone cave. First discovered in 1871, it has produced fossils that include giant tapirs, ground sloths and saber-toothed cats. Port Kennedy is considered one of the most important mammal fossil sites in North America, with some findings having been displayed at the park visitor center, although most are at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. That 750,000-year-old site was lost after a quarry was filled partly with asbestos before being rediscovered by scientists in 2005. It is not accessible to the public.

There are at least 35 Park Service properties known to have fossil tracks of ancient vertebrates, and vandalism and theft have been a problem. Federal law prohibits visitors from disturbing park elements.

A park spokesman said there have been preliminary discussions about developing an interpretive program to give visitors information about the trace fossils. Stack said the park should consider removing rocks that contain the best fossils, to prevent damage or theft.

"I would think they are of value as an educational tool," said Helen Delano, a senior scientist with the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey. "Dinosaurs are a wonderful way to hook people into paying attention to the geological environment. Every kid loves dinosaurs."

Stack said the rocks are abundant, cheap and durable, so they have long been used for paving, sidewalks, garden walls and similar features in the Philadelphia area.



PEOPLE & ARTS A29 WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019

'Black Leopard, Red Wolf' is epic tale by Marlon James

By JONATHAN ELDERFIELD Associated Press

"Black Leopard, Red Wolf" (Riverhead Books), by Marlon James

"Black Leopard, Red Wolf" by Marlon James is a serpentine, epic tale set in a fantastic realm of evil monsters and villains and flawed heroes. At its center is a quest for a boy, a child whom we know is dead from the first line of the novel.

James, who won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for his novel "A Brief History of Seven Killings," a fictionalization of the 1976 attempted murder of Bob Marley and beyond, brings his storytelling acumen to territory more commonly associated with Tolkien and George R.R. Martin.

The hero, if you can call him that, of this Homeric odyssey, is Tracker, one of a collection of characters engaged to find the missing boy. Tracker possesses the nose of a bloodhound or a wolf, but an otherworldly one, capable of hunting down the boy, many days missing and many miles away. The boy is a mystery, perhaps the key to the lineage of kings, wanted by several competing factions.

The story owes a debt to Homer, with a plot that curves and bends and defies a linear path, the ultimate outcome revealed in the opening lines. The story is as much about the storytelling as it is about the tale itself. As with any monumental fantasy saga, "Black Leopard, Red Wolf" hits the required notes kings, queens and witches, fabulously evocative locales, deceptions and betrayal and more evil monsters than I could count. There were flesh-eaters and bloodsuckers, and a creature with a new favorite name, Omoluzu or Roof Walkers. Though I confess to immediately thinking of Lionel Richie's song "Dancing on the Ceiling."

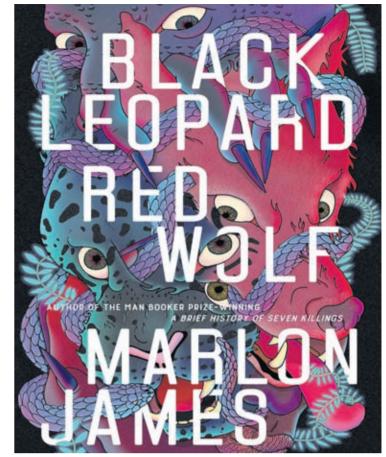
The storytelling is ambitious and enjoyable, and in

many places, I'd say even epic. However, there were times when I wanted to put the book down and not return, most often in the first section of the novel and in the final one. At the beginning, I truly had trouble keeping the characters and sequence of events clear in my mind. In the final part, I almost lost heart and could not finish. The story felt like it was taking the Rashomon effect to the nth degree and was retelling the same battles and histories over and again. In the best fantasy series ("Black Leopard, Red Wolf" is to be the first installment of James' Dark Star Trilogy), the reader wants to finish the tale and get on to

the next adventure. Sadly, that was not the case for me here. Several times during the final 80 pages, I put the book down, afraid I wouldn't pick it up again. The best writing I found

The best writing, I found, was when James was at his most direct.

My favorite lines, "I lived in town, which was a new thing for me. I have always been an edge man, always on the coast, always by the boundary. That way nobody knows if I have just come or was turning to leave" tells me about Tracker in a way that 100 killings and a multitude of foes did not. Tracker is never settled, always moving, always keeping others offbalance.



This book cover image released by Riverhead Books shows "Black Leopard, Red Wolf" by by Marlon James.

Associated Press



MASO PEOPLE & ARTS



Della Duck, intrepid space explorer and amputee, comes to TV

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Della Duck is a brave and resourceful fowl, the sort that refuses to be defeated by a solo crash landing on the moon — even when it costs her a leg.

Della, an elusive and lesserknown member of the Donald Duck family, took center stage in Saturday's episode and quickly proved to be a groundbreaker, one of the few TV characters with a disability who's part of a children's series.

"Pretty cool robot leg!" Della says gleefully of the prosthetic she fashioned with debris from her ship, downed in a space storm. The loss is handled offscreen: She is shown with her left limb trapped under spacecraft wreckage, then a short time later with the replacement.

Della, who's had a minor and shifting role within her venerable flock, is depicted in "DuckTales" as Donald's twin sister and longlost mom to Huey, Dewey and Louie. In making her an amputee, it was critical to demonstrate that is only one aspect of her and her



This photo provided by Disney shows a scene from "What Ever Happened to Della Duck?!" in an episode of the animated series "DuckTales" that airs Saturday, March 9, 2019, on Disney Channel. Associated Press

life, said the producers of the Disney Channel series. "We got really excited about the opportunity to show an aspirational version of a character that has a prosthetic and that isn't entirely defined by her prosthetic," said Francisco (Frank) Angones, co-producer and story editor.

A spunky adventurer in the spirit of her family, she has a buoyant catchphrase to match: "Nothing can stop Della Duck!" In a story arc this season, Della focuses on getting back to her kids but must also confront the unexpected company she has on the moon.

Voiced by Paget Brewster, Della made a cameo appearance in the seasonone finale and was seen as a young woman in last year's holiday special. There's more Della history: She was first mentioned in a Donald Duck newspaper comic strip and animated short film in the late 1930s, according to Disney.

She's the latest example of "DuckTales" inclusive approach, said executive producer Matt Youngberg. The series debuted in 2017 as a reboot of the 1987-90 "DuckTales" show.

"We're trying to make sure that unique and interesting voices are being heard, and that we're embracing the differences in all types of people," Youngberg said.

Jack Richmond, president

of the Amputee Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy and support group, assisted in Della's creation. He advised the series on elements including an authentic gait for Della and her can-do attitude, which he said reflects that of a determined friend who quickly adapted to becoming an amputee.

He's optimistic about how children will receive Della with a prosthetic leg.

"Kids usually are the first one to adjust and move on. They tend to accept things and say, 'OK, that's cool.' As adults, we struggle with it a little bit more," Richmond said. Even a cartoon character's depiction can carry over into the lives of young viewers, he said, allowing them to accept differences among people they encounter.

There's more than enough room on TV for characters like Della. She and Julia, a Muppet with autism who's part of "Sesame Street," are rarities, said Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, which advocates for inclusion for people with disabilities.



Norway mints a new pop princess in Sigrid



This cover image released by Island Records shows "Sucker Punch," a release by Sigrid.

By MARK KENNEDY Associated Press Sigrid, "Sucker Punch" (Island Records) Rising pop singer Sigrid's new album "Sucker Punch" is perfectly titled — it's a surprise hit you never

Associated Press

saw coming that instantly makes an impact.

The Norwegian performer has a knack for pure, crystalline synth-pop and her 12-track full-length debut is a string of massive hooks and beats, fed by videos featuring the seemingly normal and endearingly goofy 22-year-old.

Sigrid — born Sigrid Solbakk Raabe — first came to notice in 2017 with her breakout hit "Don't Kill My Vibe," a millennial giving shade to anyone talking down to her. "Say I'm young/I don't care/I won't quit," she sings on it. That song is included in "Sucker Punch" but it might not even be the high point of the album.

She lets her falsetto soar on "Basic," shows adaptability on the complex "Strangers" and while the excellent Lorde-like title track seems deceptively spare, it's a pure wriggling earworm.

T=DAY.

PEOPLE & ARTS A31 WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019

Drummer Hal Blaine, played on hits of Sinatra, Elvis, dies

By ANDREW DALTON HILLEL ITALIE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Hal Blaine, the Hall of Fame session drummer and virtual one-man soundtrack of the 1960s and '70s who played on the songs of Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and the Beach Boys and laid down one of music's most memorable opening riffs on the Ronettes' "Be My Baby," died Monday.

Blaine died of natural causes at his home in Palm Desert, California, his sonin-law, Andy Johnson, told The Associated Press. He was 90.

On hearing of his death, the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson called him "the greatest drummer ever."

The winner of a Grammy Achievement Lifetime Award last year, Blaine's name was known by few outside the music industry, even in his prime. But just about anyone with a turntable, radio or TV heard his drumming on songs that included Presley's "Return to Sender," the Byrds' "Mr. Tambourine Man," Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were," the Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations," dozens of hits produced by Phil Spector and the theme songs to "Batman," "The Partridge Family" and other shows.

"Hal Blaine was such a great musician and friend that I can't put it into words," Wilson said in a tweet that included an old photo of him and Blaine sitting at the piano. "Hal taught me a lot, and he had so much to do with our success — he was the greatest drummer ever."

As a member of the Los Angeles-based "The Wrecking Crew," studio musicians who also included keyboard player Leon Russell, bassist Carol Kaye and guitarist Tommy Tedesco, Blaine forged a hard-earned virtuosity and tions. The song remained versatility that enabled him to adapt quickly to a wide range of popular music. According to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, he played on 40 No. 1 hits, 150 top 10 songs. Blaine also played on eight songs that



In this June 25, 2008, file photo, Don Randi, from left, Glen Campbell and Hal Blaine, representing session musicians known as The Wrecking Crew, hold up their hands after placing them in the cement following the induction ceremony for Hollywood's RockWalk in Los Angeles.

won Grammys for record of the year, including Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night" and Simon & amp; Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

He may be the only drummer to back Presley, Sinatra and John Lennon.

"Godspeed Old Friend," Sinatra's daughter Nancy Sinatra said alongside an Instagram picture she posted of Blaine backing her up as she sang.

Some accounts have Blaine playing on 35,000 songs, but he believed that around 6,000 was more accurate, still making him a strong contender for the most recorded drummer in history. In 2000, he was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame.

Out of so many notable sessions, his signature moment was the attention-grabbing "on the four" solo — Bumba-bum-BOOM — that launched the classic "Be My Baby," a hit for the Ronettes in 1963 that helped define Spector's overpowering "Wall of Sound" produca radio staple for decades and got new life in the '70s when it was used to open Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets" and again in the '80s when it was featured in "Dirty Dancing."

Few drum parts have been

so widely imitated, from Billy Joel's "Say Goodbye to Hollywood" to The Jesus and Mary Chain's "Just Like Honey."

In a 2005 interview with Modern Drummer magazine, Blaine said that he wasn't quite sure how he came up with the solo. To the best of his memory, he accidentally missed a beat while the song was being recorded and improvised by only playing the beat on the fourth note.

"And I continued to do that," he recalled. "Phil might have said, 'Do that again.' Somebody loved it, in any event. It's just one of those things that sometimes happens."

Blaine nicknamed himself and his peers "The Wrecking Crew," because they were seen by their more buttoned-down elders as destructive to the industry - an assertion that Kaye and others disputed. Many members of The Wrecking Crew worked nonstop for 20 years, sometimes as many as eight sessions a day, a pace that led to several marriages and divorces for Blaine.

Associated Press

As more bands played on their own records and electronic drums arose, business dropped off in the 1980s even as younger musicians such as Max Weinberg of the E Street Band cited his influence.

His memoir, "Hal Blaine & The Wrecking Crew," came out in 1990, and he continued to appear at symposiums and workshops into his 80s. Blaine also was seen in the 2008 documentary "The Wrecking Crew" and was played by Johnny Sneed in the Wilson biopic "Love & amp; Mercy."

Many younger drummers counted him as a friend and mentor.

"Hal was funny, sweet, and genuine," Jon "Bermuda" Schwartz, drummer for the "Weird Al" Yankovic Band, said in email to The Associated Press. "He made you

feel like you were the most important person in the room. His inspiration and influence to drummers everywhere is immeasurable. Hal was a treasure."

Blaine, the son of Jewish immigrants, was born Harold Simon Belsky in Holyoke, Massachusetts. By age 8, he was already drumming, using a pair of dowels he removed from a seat in the living room. He was a professional by age 20 and within a few years switched from jazz to rock after being approached during a gig at the Garden Of Allah hotel in Hollywood.

"This guy came in," Blaine told Modern Drummer, "and said, 'Hey kid, I've been watching you for a couple of days. You want to make some bucks? I got a singer (Tommy Sands) over here and he's going to be signed by Capitol Records, but he needs a drummer."

The use of session musicians became a scandal in the late 1960s when it was discovered that the Monkees, the million-selling TV foursome, did not play on their songs. Blaine, who, of course, drummed for the Monkees, knew that many top groups depended on him and his peers. He even became friendly with some of the players he sat in for, including Wilson's brother Dennis Wilson.

"He was thrilled that I was making their records because while I was making Beach Boy records, he was out surfing or riding his motorcycle," Blaine told Modern Drummer.

"The drummer with The Knack, Bruce Gary, was once asked who his favorite drummer was. And he said he was never so disappointed in his life to find out that a dozen of his favorite drummers were me."



A32 FEATURE WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019



Japanese spinning tops tell stories, aim for playfulness



This undated photo provided by ariTV/Carving Community: The Landis-Hiroi Collection, shows Michiaki Hiroi, who is part of the last family still carving Edo-style tops in Japan.

By LINDA LOMBARDI Associated Press

It once was thought that the Japanese tradition of carving Edo-style spinning tops had been lost. It turned out it had just gone on the road to northern Japan and some of it ended up in America as well.

While they're called tops, these go beyond simple spinning disks. Many are more like carved, wooden figures, and might depict scenes with characters that dance, transform or fight. On one, an ogre disguised as a priest bangs a gong when you spin his hat; on another, two discs illustrated with a dog and a robber chase each other around. Figures from folklore and theater are represented, and whimsical scenes like two frogs sumo wrestling.

More than just playthings, the tops were traditionally used for street performances, and involve original creations, not just repetitive copies.

"They have a very varied history across different social groups and classes," says Paula R. Curtis, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Michigan. "Part of it is the artisans putting themselves into the work, interpreting their experiences and cultural background through these tops." One such artisan is Michiaki Hiroi. His was the last family making tops in Tokyo when they moved to Sendai in the north of Japan after the Second World War. His father made a living making the woodcrafts of that region, and Hiroi initially followed in his footsteps. Then one day a collector who knew about the Edo style came to the shop and discovered who he was. "This person said, oh my God, l've been looking for you forever," says Curtis.

Hiroi was inspired to begin making the tops and taking on apprentices. While the stereotype of craft apprenticeships in Japan is that they're hard to break into and not welcoming to women and foreigners, Hiroi didn't discriminate. One of his apprentices was Janell Landis, an American who came to Japan as a missionary and taught at a university in Sendai for 30 years.

When she became his apprentice in 1982, Hiroi encouraged her to bring her own experiences and culture to the craft. Where his tops might represent a figure from a Noh drama, hers included Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer and Cinderella. Instead of Japanese folklore, they reflected the stories important to her, such as a Christmas tree and a scene of the manger with baby

If Christmas is fair game as

a subject, then what makes

a top Edo-style? Curtis, proj-

ect manager of an oral his-

Associated Press tory website about Landis and Hiroi, says that Hiroi's

and Hiroi, says that Hiroi's answer focuses on the tops' spirit: "He's very insistent on that when he talks about them: When people look at them, it brings them a sense of joy and playfulness,"

That response might seem evasive or frustrating aren't you supposed to be able to identify a school of arts or crafts from how it looks? Not necessarily, according to Tamara Joy, curator of the Morikami Museum in Delray Beach, Florida. For Japanese crafts, a style is often distinguished by where it comes from and who is teaching it, rather than certain patterns or techniques. But the term Edo also has deep cultural and historical resonance that is reflected in these tops, says Joy, whose museum owns a collection of Hiroi's work that Landis brought back when she returned to the US in 1995.

Edo is the old name for Tokyo, but it's also the name of the era from 1603-1868, a period that saw the development of a new middle class with more free time and spending money. This resulted in an explosion of the arts and culture. These tops are part of that bigger picture, Joy says.

Often, they contained subversive commentary about the ruling classes. "There was a lot of sticking it to the people who were in charge," says Joy. This had to be subtle: perhaps a play that used historical characters with parallels to the present, or a performance with elaborate tops that actually told a story.

One of Joy's favorites in the collection represents a common figure of fun, the spear-bearer who led samurai processions. Paintings and illustrations mock his self-importance. "His chest is all puffed up, and he's got a smug look on his face," says Joy. "You couldn't directly make fun of the samurai, but you could poke at them and their egos through this character." On Hiroi's top, the figure's

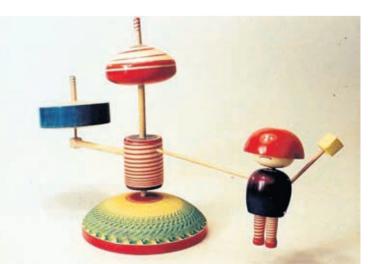
spear moves around clumsily when his head is spun. "You could see the same character in a half-milliondollar painting," Joy says, "and he made his way into a top."



This undated photo provided by Janell Landis/Carving Community: The Landis-Hiroi Collection, shows examples of examples of Edo-style wooden tops made by Janell Landis reflecting American themes.

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Jesus.



This undated photo provided by Janell Landis/Carving Community: The Landis-Hiroi Collection, shows an example of an Edo-style top depicting a courier, who appears to run frantically when it is spun.